

SPANISH TALES,

TRANSLATED

FROM LE SAGE,

AND

SELECTED FROM OTHER AUTHORS:

WHEREIN ARE CONTAINED

DESCRIPTION OF MADRID, GRENADA, SARAGOZA,

SEVILLE, MILAN, PARMA, PALERMO,

&c. &c.

BY

MRS. FREDERICK LAYTON.

"In the gay morn of life, when all around
Seems to the youthful eye, enchanted ground;
When tempting novelty its witchery spreads,
And fancy plays the devil with our heads,
Then is the ardent hour of bold emprise,
The frigid caution makes us coldly wise."

KEATE.

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HISTORY

OF

ESTEVANILLE GONZALEZ.



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VOL. III.

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DON JOACHIM DE RODILLAS'S TALE.

IN going to St. Jaques, to accomplish my vow, I met, upon the frontier of Galicia, a pilgrim, as young as myself, proceeding to Compostella with the same intention. We saluted each other with great politeness, and immediately entered into conversation with all the freedom of youth. I told him I came from Burgos; and he informed me he was from Asturia de Santillana. We mutually related the cause of our journey; and, resolving to finish it together, we proceeded to St. Jaques, to perform our vow, and afterwards took the road to return home: but when we got to Ponferrada, where we had to separate—one



to take the road to the Asturias, and the other that of Burgos—we each felt so much repugnance to part, that we could not resolve upon it. “I do not know,” said the pilgrim to me, “if you feel much at the idea of separation; but, for my own part, I am so mortified, and so afflicted with the thought of it, that I know not how to console myself.” “I may say the same thing,” returned I; the mildness of your manners, and the agreeableness of your temper, have inspired me with so much friendship for you, that I cannot express how much I shall be grieved at your loss.” “Enough, then,” said he: “What necessity is there for separation? Let us write to our friends, join our fortunes together, and travel over all Spain. Such a frolic is pardonable in two young men of family.”

I made no objection to the proposal. “My friend,” said I to the Asturian (for we already lived in great familiarity together), “I would willingly take you at your word, if I were in better circumstances; but I am

dependent on a brother, who, because he was born four or five years before me, is master of the estate : he has given me a very moderate sum for the expenses of my journey, and I have no more than three pistoles remaining, to take me to Burgos." " I should not be richer than you," said he, " if I had only what my father, who is old and avaricious, had given me : but I will own to you, that, for fear of wanting money by the way, I took the precaution of providing myself privately with a purse of fifty doubloons, which I contrived to convey slyly out of the house. With this little treasure we can get to Salamanca, and there we can consult upon our best mode of proceeding."

I did not fail to applaud the caution of the Asturian, blameable as it was ; and we resolved forthwith to set out for Salamanca. I cannot tell why we pitched on that city, in preference to any other, unless it was on account of its so much vaunted University, which we were anxious to see. Arrived at Salamanca, we went to lodge in a good

inn ; where the first thing my companion thought of was, to send for a broker, who took his pilgrim's habit, and furnished him with a genteel suit, in the same fashion as mine. We bought, at the same time, linen and other things that were absolutely necessary. This made a terrible chasm in our purse ; but, in return, we assumed the manners, as we had the appearance, of two little *Hidalgos*.

We had soon seen all that was worth notice in Salamanca ; and our intention being not to remain long there, at the end of five days we determined on setting out for Madrid, to judge for ourselves if the magnificence of the Court of Spain answered the superb ideas we conceived of it. We set out early in the morning, by the Capuchin carriage, (or, more plainly speaking, *on foot*,) carrying, by turns, our bag of linen upon our shoulders. The delightful banks of the Tormes form a beautiful feature in the environs of Salamanca ; and the scenery was rendered more interesting by

the addition of some Merino flocks, returning to the south.

Piedrafita was our first resting-place. San Ildefonso, fifty miles north of Madrid, roused our attention to the magnificence of a Court. It is situated at the foot of a very lofty and steep conical hill, covered with trees, and connected with the still loftier mountains of Guadarama: it stands in a deep recess, open and exposed only to the north wind, enjoying freshness, and gathering the fruits of spring, when, to the southward of the mountains, the husbandmen, fainting with heat, are engaged in reaping their autumnal crops. The palace occupies three sides of a square: the principal front, of five hundred and thirty feet, is to the south, looking to the garden. The pictures are a most valuable collection of the old masters. The garden occupies a ridge rising to the south, and declining to the east and west. Near the palace, it is laid out in the old taste, with clipped hedges and straight walks, highly adorned, and refreshed with

numerous fountains : but, in proportion to the distance, it becomes more wild, till it terminates in the uncultivated and pathless forest ; where the cragged rocks, appearing amongst oaks and pines, present a striking contrast with the works of art. This garden, delightful for its walks, which, although shady, are neither damp nor gloomy, is most to be admired for its fountains, and vast reservoirs and falls of water, so disposed as to add much beauty to the place. In this garden is every thing which is desirable in sultry weather : a free circulation of air ; a deep shade, and refreshing vapours to absorb the heat ; whilst, from its contiguity to the palace, the access is easy, and these comforts may be instantly enjoyed. Yet, without these numerous fountains, clipped hedges, and narrow walks, the circulation would be less rapid, the shades less deep, and the refreshing vapour would be wanting. The Prado is part of the great road leading to Segovia, and is shaded on both sides with trees. Segovia was the first town we came to which retains any traces of the Moors.

The inn where we put up had doubtless been a magnificent abode, being built in the form of a hollow square, with an arcade round the interior, supported by pillars in the Moorish style. The Cathedral is a structure of simplicity and grandeur : the inside is majestic, and remarkably clear of the embarrassments of altars and chapels, so common in these structures : the high altar is rich and showy. The Alcazar stands in one of the finest positions possible, on a rock rising above the open country ; a fine river washes the feet of the precipice ; and the city lies admirably well on each side of the brow of a hill. The declivity is woody, and the banks charmingly rural : to which the snowy mountains and dark forests of San Ildefonso form an awful back-ground. The palace has seldom been inhabited by any but prisoners, since the reign of Ferdinand and Isabella, who were much attached to this situation. In it there are some magnificent rooms, with much gilding on the cielings. The Aqueduct is first seen to the left of the road from San Ildefonso ; but

inspires no idea of grandeur, till seen in the centre of Segovia : there it stretches across a deep valley, at the bottom and along the sides of which a part of the town is built ; and consists of two rows of arches, one above the other, amounting to a hundred and seventy-five in number. It seems astonishing how such a mass of stones should hang together, as it were, in the air, for so many centuries. The grandeur of this immense pile is augmented by the narrow streets and dark houses which cluster round the bases of the arches. To deserve such a work, Segovia must have been a situation of great importance in the eyes of the Romans : it is still a large town, and was doubtless placed here on account of the strong situation of the Alcazar ; which must have been nearly impregnable, before the use of artillery.

Six leagues hence, over a fine road, we reached the Escorial. The aspect of this celebrated convent, situated in a corner of a lofty ridge of mountains, struck us with

awe and pleasure. The landscape is very grand ; for at a single view you command one of the largest edifices in the world, a boundless extent of woodland, and a full view of Madrid : beyond which is a vast tract of country, that loses itself gradually in the horizon. This building was begun in 1562, and consists of several courts and quadrangles, which altogether are disposed in the shape of a gridiron ; being built to commemorate the battle of St. Quintin, fought on the feast of St. Lawrence, who was broiled to death on a gridiron. The apartments where the King resides form the handle. The building is a long square, of six hundred and forty feet by five hundred and eighty : the domes, and the immense extent of its fronts, render it a wonderfully grand object, from every point of view. The cathedral, which is in the centre, is large, awful, and richly ornamented : the cupola is bold and light. The high altar is composed of rich marbles, agates, and jaspers, of great variety. The collection of pictures dispersed about various parts of



the cathedral, sacristy, and convent, surpassed my expectations. Formed out of the spoils of Italy, and the cabinet of that unfortunate dilettante, Charles the First of England, it contains some of the finest works of the greatest artists. The famous Madonna della Perla, by the divine Raphael, is here, in the sacristy: this was part of the spoil of the English King's collection. The King of Spain was so much enchanted with it, when it was first brought to him, that he gave it the name of *Perla*, by which it has been distinguished ever since. We happened to be present at the celebration of the Feast of St. Lawrence, when, of course, all the magnificence of the convent was displayed. The choir, the solemn organ, the multitude of priests and monks with lighted tapers in their hands, the marble pillars, the painted roof, all formed a great whole, compared with which every religious ceremony I had before seen was nothing. The library of the convent is magnificent in the extreme, and contains many valuable ancient Spanish and Arabic manuscripts.

The monks are very attentive to strangers, being careful to shew them all the riches of the place. From this palace to Madrid is seven leagues. The approach to the capital is by a fine stone bridge, over the Manzanares. This entrance is noble. We passed under a grand arch of stone, adorned with warlike trophies ; and entered at once upon a wide street, each side of which is embellished with the palaces of the grandees. We went to the Croce de Malta, one of the most famous inns. You may imagine that the host, seeing us come without equipage or servants, did not give us the best rooms ; but he allotted us a very good one, wherein were two beds, which people more delicate than ourselves might have been very well satisfied with. The host, curious to know who we were, asked what brought us to Madrid ; begging we would excuse him if he took too great a liberty. We had no sooner answered that we came solely to gratify the desire, we had entertained for a long time, of seeing the finest city in the world, than he exclaimed, “ God be praised !

my little Lords, you may well call it so ; since nothing is equal to Madrid : therefore the Catholic Kings commonly reside here. Yes," said he, with rapture, " the King's palace alone, with all the wonders and curiosities it contains, would well repay any one for coming from the farthest corner of the world. You will be charmed when you see the Arsenal, which is a hundred paces long ; and the Armoury of Charles the Fifth, and of the three Philips his successors. You will never be tired of viewing the quantity of gold and silver arms, and of pistols, darts, and harness for horses, in all fashions : but, above all, you will be pleased with six men on horseback, all covered with emeralds, which Emanuel of Savoy presented to Philip the Second. There is so much worth seeing in Madrid, that you will never repent coming here."

The host, who loved to talk, would have detailed all the curiosities of the city, if, feeling it was time to think of supper, we had not desired him to put a young rabbit and a partridge on the spit, and let us have them

as quick as possible. This being done, he came again during supper, and forced upon us a tedious description of Madrid and its environs. Though he had not the talent of embellishing objects, his description increased our impatience to see them. It was scarcely daybreak next morning, when we arose and dressed ourselves with as much haste as if we had not a moment to lose, and went out of the hotel with all speed.

Proceeding first to hear mass at Notre Dame of Almudena, which passes for an image brought out of the Holy Land by St. James of Compostella, we next visited the great market-place, so famous for the bull-fights held there ; and were struck with the magnificence of the palaces which surround it, and more particularly by that which the King occupies, when he comes to see the bull-fights, denominated the Consistory. This and many other edifices gave us so high an opinion of the capital of the kingdom, that every thing we saw appeared to be unequalled. "What superb houses !"

said I to my companion, stopping at every large house : “ I plainly perceive we are not here in a provincial town. Look at the shops—what riches they contain ! Observe the merchants, and their gravity. Do you not perceive an air of nobility about them, which men of the same class have not in other places ? Quite the air of Roman citizens ! ” We never failed going every morning to the King’s levee, where our imagination gave to many of the *Grandeos* a respectable appearance which Nature had denied them. The Palace is a noble pile of building : the great audience-chamber is rich beyond imagination : the ceiling represents the triumphs of Spain ; round the cornice are allegorical figures of its different provinces, distinguished by their productions, and attended by several of their inhabitants, in their provincial habits. These form a most uncommon picture, and a curious assemblage of costume. The walls are covered with beautiful marble, and all around hung with large looking-glasses in rich frames. A collection of pictures, by the greatest masters of the art, adorns the inner apartments : but

even this vast fabric does not afford room enough for all the riches his Catholic Majesty possesses in this branch : the gallery at the Escorial surpasses this collection.

At the bottom of the palace-yard is an old building, called the *Armoria*, containing a curious collection of antique arms and weapons, kept in a manner that would make poor Cornelius Scriblerus swoon at every step. No fire-irons are kept half so bright as the coats of mail. Here is shewn the armour of all the heroes who have dignified the annals of Spain. St. Ferdinand, Ferdinand the Catholic, his wife Isabella, Charles the Fifth, the great Captain Gonzalo, the King of Granada, and many others. The temper of the sword-blades is wonderful ; you may bend them round your waist like a twig.

The Royal Museum is open on certain days in the week : the collection of animals, birds, ores, spars, and other articles of natural history, is superb ; and the curiosities from South America are such as nowhere

else can be found. Not only the skins of animals and birds peculiar to this continent are there preserved, but also the arms, dress, and utensils of the ancient Mexicans. Amongst them is their great standard; and the drinking-cup of Montezuma, formed of a single precious stone, with his golden sceptre.

This city has a noble appearance: the houses are lofty, and built of stone; the streets well paved and clean; and the public edifices, not being blackened with smoke, look as if they were newly erected. The great ornaments of Madrid, exclusive of its palaces and churches, are its gates, resembling so many triumphal arches, and the Prado. The first appearance of the Prado, beginning from the Calle de Alcala, is very grand: the width of the street, the palaces, the monasteries, with their terraces, and the other edifices, all of fine architecture; the view of the magnificent gate to which one of the avenues leads; the four rows of large spreading trees, and the superb fountains of

marble ; altogether produce a very striking and most wonderful effect. The same may be said of the view from the street of St. Hieronimo, which presents, at its entrance, a palace, a magnificent hospital, and two superb monasteries ; and, in front, the royal residence of Buen Retiro. The third point of view, from the street of the Botanic Garden, is more confined : that from the Calle de Atocha is extremely animated ; and the eye ranges in a long avenue, extending as far as the monastery of San Thomas. This walk is admirable in all its parts, being broad, adorned with handsome fountains, and divided into avenues by rows of trees : it bounds the whole of one side of the town, being terminated at each end by one of the gates of the city. The streets leading down to it are the broadest and finest in Madrid ; and on the opposite side are the gardens, pleasure-grounds, and palace of the Buen Retiro. The fountains of the Prado are in general formed after antique models, and the water of one of them is the purest in the whole city. One very broad walk,



adorned with these fountains, is thronged every fine evening with the best company; and, on Sundays, the King, Queen, and Royal Family, ride up and down the carriage-road. On the Prado, the stranger may study with advantage the dress, the air, and the gait, of the inhabitants; for all pass in review before him, from the King to the beggar. The Grandee alights from his carriage, and saunters amongst the throng, seemingly careless about his fine dress; the citizen in his plain clothes; and the lower classes in their still meaner. What vivacity! What art! What a struggle to attract attention; to bow to one another; to be observed; to make mutual signs! Young girls with their Duennas, Belles with their *Cortejos*, old Dukes with their Confessors, Nurses with their children, Priests with their pampered faces, Officers full of impudence, old mummies of Duchesses, and young children playing. Here are lackeys running to perform their masters' orders; company on foot going up to the carriages to whisper soft nothings to the ladies; carriages

quitting the ranks, and replaced by others ; a restive mule disturbing the whole train ; dragoons prancing on all sides ; people crossing on horseback ; beggars and fruit-sellers following the carriages ; and no object remaining for a moment stationary. The seats, which extend from the Botanic Garden to the other end of the Prado, are all occupied by the particoloured crowd of spectators ; the people on foot return gaily from the promenade ; the whole Prado resounds with a kind of buzzing murmur ; and, if the veils of the women and the cloaks of the men admitted more variety, the *coup-d'œil* would be enchanting.

The air of Madrid is remarkably pure and healthy : nothing can exceed the delightful coolness of the mornings, or the brilliancy of the stars at night. The moonlight evenings are delicious, almost beyond imagination. It is on such nights that the mildness of the light and the sweetness and purity of the air fill the soul with secret pleasure ; and the lover, excited to rapture

by the scene, places himself beneath the window of his mistress, and, to his guitar, sings his hopes and fears, the pangs of jealousy, or the joys of mutual affection.

Let us now take a view of one of the most animated streets. What a varied crowd! What a confusion of sounds! Women in black, and veiled; men in long cloaks; water-carriers; fruit-sellers; magnificent equipages; dusty diligences; light *calesas*, or gigs; waggons drawn by mules, groaning under an enormous weight; a multitude of asses, with pack-saddles and bells; herds of goats, with peasants going from door to door to milk them; blind musicians, singing their *tornadillas*; and Alguazils, crying the orders of the Police; a crowd of *Gallegos*; processions of chaplets; guards following the drum; confraternities escorting a funeral, and singing psalms; the tinkling of bells in all the neighbouring churches;—and, lastly, the solemn procession of the Host; when, the bells of the children of the choir being

heard, every one kneels down, all tongues are silent, and all hats off; all the carriages stop; and the tumultuous crowd seems instantly petrified. Two minutes are scarcely elapsed, before the accustomed clamour is renewed.

The public squares, which are the usual resort of all classes for recreation, you may easily imagine, were calculated particularly to attract our attention. At eleven, the motley groups begin to assemble in them:—a troop of officers of the Guard, with brilliant accoutrements, monks in black cloaks, charming women in veils embroidered with gold, arm in arm, with their *cortejos*, and a particoloured crowd of all kinds, wrapped up in their cloaks, pour from every street, to read the advertisements. “To-day there will be a sermon, and music, at the Franciscans”—“There will be an opera, and such and such plays”—“To-morrow there will be a bull-fight”—“Lost, yesterday, at the Prado, a little girl; and, this morning, a chaplet”—“Stolen, three days ago, such a jewel; if it has been taken through

want, and the thief will restore it, through his confessor, he shall receive a handsome reward"—“The day after to-morrow will be sold, by auction, a large crucifix”—“This evening the procession of the Rosary will set out about eight o'clock.”

All this time the square is filling to such a degree, that it is difficult to pass. On one side are cries of news-carriers, stunning the passengers with their noise; people reading the journals; Walloon and Swiss guards offering goods for sale; hackney coaches plying for fares; old-clothes-men, cobblers, sharpeners, sellers of images and *çigarrs*, and hucksters of all kinds, tormenting all they meet; a juggler with dancing monkeys; and, farther on, goods selling by auction: women ogling the passengers; and Capuchins with long beards parading with great gravity and solemnity. On another side you are attacked by ballad-singers, and worried by beggars. The grand finale consists of the rattling of carriages and *calesas*, and the neighbouring fountain echoing with the

This place is still more noisy on Sundays and holidays, when crowds of people are flocking to the neighbouring churches. It is the fashion to pass these days in the square ; and many a fair who has missed her lover at church is sure to find him here.

Could we be in Madrid, and not go to a bull-feast? You will not imagine that this greatest of treats to a Spaniard could be omitted. We went to the first after our arrival. The amphitheatre is three hundred and thirty feet diameter, and the arena two hundred and twenty-five : it contains fifteen thousand spectators. At the appointed signal from the Magistrates, two folding-doors fly open, and the bull rushes furiously into the arena ; but, upon seeing the assembled multitude, he makes a pause, and looks round, as if seeking some object on which to spend his rage. Opposed to him he sees a Picador, mounted on his horse, armed with a lance, and coming on to meet him. As they draw near, they often stop ; then move a few inches, each surveying

his antagonist with fixed attention ; each in his turn advancing slowly, as if doubtful what part to take ;—till at length the bull, dropping his head, and collecting all his strength, shuts his eyes, and with impetuosity rushes on his adversary. The Picador, calm and collected, fixing himself in his seat, and holding the lance under his right arm, directs the point of it to the shoulder of the raging animal, and turns him aside ;—but he cannot always accomplish this. One bull rushed upon the lance, and, rising almost upright, instantly broke it to shivers ; then, with his forehead, as with a battering ram, he smote the Picador on the breast, beat him down, and overthrew the horse. And now the *Chulos*, active young men, with little cloaks, or banners, distracted his attention, and gave the horseman an opportunity of escaping. As soon as he was gone, a second Picador, armed like the former, offered battle to the bull. Flushed with conquest, the furious beast rushed forward ; but being with dexterity diverted by the lance, he returned to

the charge before the horse could face about, and, fixing his horns between his thighs, tossed him in the air, and overthrew the rider. The Chulos again appeared, and the man escaped, being relieved by the first Picador, who had again entered the arena mounted on a fresh horse. The first attack was fatal to this animal ; for the bull, avoiding the lance by a sudden turn, pierced the horse's chest, and struck him to the heart. Sometimes the bull tears open the belly of the horse ; the rider is thrown upon his back ; and the poor wounded creature runs about with his bowels trailing on the ground. Thirteen horses are sometimes killed in a morning. These animals have so much spirit, that the riders can make them face the bull, even after they have received their mortal wound.

When the bull, finding his antagonist constantly remounted, will not give battle, the Banderilleros are let loose upon him. These are eight young men, each with a bundle of banderilles, or little arrows, in



his hand, which he is to fix in the neck of the bull: not, however, attacking him from behind, but meeting him in front. For this purpose they provoke him to attack them; and when he is preparing to take them on his horns, at the very moment he makes a little stop, and shuts his eyes, they fix their banderilles and escape. If they cannot bring him to this point, they present the *moleta*, or little scarlet bonnet, always carried in their left hand, and, provoking him to push at that, pass by him. When he turns quick upon them, they place their confidence in flight; and, to amuse him, they let fall their *moleta*. This very often is sufficient: he stops to smell at it; then tramples it under foot. But sometimes, with his eyes fixed upon the man who let it fall, he follows with such velocity, that the Banderillero can scarcely leap over the fence before he is overtaken by the bull: nay, they will sometimes clear the fence at the same instant with the man, though it is six feet high. Beyond this fence, at the distance of five feet, is another, to protect

the spectators: but the bulls will sometimes leap with such amazing force as to clear both fences and fall amongst the benches.

When the bull has fought about twenty minutes, his time is come, and he must die. This is the most interesting moment. The Matador appears, and silent expectation is visible on every countenance. With the left hand he holds the moleta, in his right the sword. During the combat, he is studying the character of the bull, and watching all his motions. If the animal is *claro*, that is, impetuous, and without disguise, the Matador draws nigh with confidence, certain of a speedy victory: but if he is cautious, circumspect, and crafty—if he is cool and collected, slow in forming his resolutions, but quick in their execution—he is called *oscuro*; and before him even a veteran will tremble. The Matador draws nigh, views him with a fixed attention, and endeavours to provoke him, but in vain; or, having provoked him, makes his lunge,

but is eluded by the wary animal, who instantly becomes assailant, and the champion flies. He flies, but he looks back at the bull, that he may know how to regulate his flight. One, famous for his activity, possessed such recollection, that, when pursued and near the barrier, at the very instant when the furious animal had closed his eyes to toss him, he put his foot between the horns, and, with this borrowed motion, cleared the fence, and came down upon his feet.

If the Matador is an adept in his profession, and calm, he contrives to irritate the bull; and the furious animal rushes blindly on the well-directed lance. The part of the bull first aimed at by the Matador is the cerebellum, or that part of the spinal marrow which is contiguous to it; and the sword enters between the vertebræ, or where the latter is united to the heart. By this blow the creature staggers, and, without losing one drop of blood, falls lifeless on the ground. If this stroke is not practi-

cable, the sword is aimed at the heart; and death, although speedy, is not so sudden. Sometimes it happens that a vital part is not struck, and the sword is buried up to the hilt; but, if it does not penetrate the thorax, it only glances along the ribs, and the furious animal soon shakes it out. If the Matador misses his aim, the bull sometimes receives him on his horns; which are formidable weapons of five feet long. The moment the poor creature falls at the feet of the Matador, the trumpets sound, and three mules enter to drag him off.

A Negro from Buenos Ayres, who had been trained up from his infancy to hunt the wild cattle of the desert, exhibited some very extraordinary feats of strength and dexterity. He took a long rope with a running noose, and, throwing it over the horns of the bull, brought it close to a strong stake fixed in the middle of the arena, where he tied it tight till he had fastened a saddle on his back, on which he seated

himself: he then cut the cord, and let the animal run about, exerting himself ineffectually to shake off so unusual a load by the most furious movements. When the bull was sufficiently tamed by fatigue, he made use of him as a charger against another bull, which he soon dispatched; and then at one blow struck dead the beast on which he was mounted. The violence of this exertion commonly brought on him a dangerous spitting of blood.

The popularity of this diversion is scarcely to be imagined. Men, women, and children, rich and poor, all give the preference to it before any other public spectacle.

The Court having removed to Aranjuez, we resolved to see that celebrated spot. It is twenty-seven miles south of Madrid; the road to it is excellent, and flanked with trees. The new bridge over the Xarama, at the descent into the plain, is very long and beautiful. Here are numerous avenues of aged elms, green banks to rest upon,

near a fine meandering river, fountains and shady groves, plenty of milk and butter, and vegetables in great perfection. The situation of this place renders it a delightful residence ; it stands on an extensive plain, surrounded by barren hills, and well shaded by noble rows of trees extending in every direction. The compartments between the avenues are laid down in meadows, for the supply of a great number of cattle belonging to the king. That part of the vale which stretches out to the eastward, is left in a ruder state ; and, with the exception of some fields of corn, is mostly forest land ; through which the Tagus winds, in a deep shady bed. The walks and rides along the banks, through venerable groves, and under majestic elms, that overhang the roads, are luxuries unknown in other parts of the kingdom, and justly entitle this place to the appellation of the Garden of Spain. The beauties of the scenery are enlivened by flocks of birds, of various plumage, that flutter and sing on the boughs ; by herds of deer, which amount to seven thousand head ; and by

droves of buffaloes, sheep, cows, and brood mares, that wander free and uncontrouled about the woods. Wild boars are frequently seen, in the evening, in the streets of the town.

The finest avenue, called the *Calle de la Reïña*, is three miles long, quite straight from the palace-gate, and crosses the Tagus twice before it loses itself in the thickets, where some noble spreading elms and weeping willows hang beautifully over the deep still pool. Near this place is a flower-garden for the Spring, laid out with great taste. The gay variety of flowers at this season of the year is particularly pleasing to the eye ; but its beauty soon fades on the approach of Summer. As the weather grows hot, the company retire to a garden in an island of the Tagus, on the north side of the Palace. This is a heavenly-place, cut into various walks and lawns. Nature has, however, in great measure, obliterated the stiff forms of art ; the trees have swelled out beyond the line traced for them, and advance into

the walks, or retire from them : the sweet flowering shrubs have shot up into trees, and hang over the statues and fountains. The *jets-d'eau* dash up amongst the trees, and add fresh verdure to the leaves. The terraces and balustrades, built along the river, are now overgrown with roses, and other luxuriant bushes, hanging down into the stream, which is darkened by majestic trees growing on the opposite banks. Many of the statues, groups and fountains are handsome, and some masterly, the work of Algardi : the whole placed in charming points of view ; either in circular spots, at a distance from the trees, or else in gloomy arbours and retired angles of the woods.

The west front of the palace is handsome : it was begun by Philip the Second, who planted many of the avenues ; and, in order to extend his chace, or to indulge his splenetic disposition, he ordered all the vines that grew on the hills to be rooted up. By means like these he at length drove away the inhabitants, and rendered the environs of his



villa a perfect desert. Near ten thousand persons are supposed to live here for two or three months in the spring: of course houses and streets now arise in the desert. There are several fine streets with broad pavements, a double row of trees before the houses, and a very noble road in the middle; commodious hotels for the ministers and ambassadors; great squares, markets, churches, a theatre, and an amphitheatre for bull-fights.

One afternoon we had a charming entertainment on the river. The Prince of Asturias and his attendants, embarked in a galley richly decorated, preceded and followed by other smaller barges, adorned in a less splendid, though still very gay, manner. They rowed from his banqueting-house up into the woods, where the meanderings of the river are extremely beautiful; forming fine sweeps and reaches, with green banks, and shaded by aged trees that hang in various clumps over the stream. Crowds of holiday folks, in their best apparel, lined

both sides of the Tagus, and were no small addition to the beauty of the scene.

Whilst we passed our time in this delightful manner, our funds diminished very fast : we had so little remaining at the end of a month, that we began to be uneasy : but our uneasiness did not last long ; for, having heard they were going to send recruits immediately to Lombardy, we formed, without hesitation, the courageous resolution of serving the King. The Asturian preferred this plan by far to returning to the Asturias, where he would have to suffer the reproaches of his father, and perhaps ill-treatment ; and, for my own part, I did not like to part with a man who was become dear to me.

We therefore made up our minds to augment the list of heroes ; and having learnt the name and residence of the recruiting officer, we presented ourselves to him. His name was Don Pompeyo Torbellino ; and by his martial appearance he seemed to say

that he had smelt powder. He gave us a very good reception; and, as soon as we had informed him of our intention to devote ourselves to the service of the state, he manifested as much joy as if we had been two warriors of the greatest hope. "My children," said he, "I am charmed with your heroic sentiments: you appear to be young men of family. It is to such principally that the career of glory is open; and it is upon you that the Monarchy rests her hopes. You could not in a better time have taken upon you the noble profession of arms."

Having finished this address, he gave us six pistoles each, and made us sign our agreement. He afterwards gave us notice that we must hold ourselves in readiness to set out for Barcelona in three days, where two galleys were waiting to conduct us to Italy, with the other newly-raised recruits. Far from repenting our enlisting, we rejoiced at our destination; and, when the time was come, we took our departure for Barcelona,

in company with a hundred and fifty others, all young men, well disposed to support the honour of the nation. We slept by night in the barns upon fresh straw, and were regaled by day with brown bread and water.

In spite of our frugal living, we marched gaily on to Barcelona; the delightful situation of which place could not fail to please us. The streets are narrow and crooked, like those of all ancient cities. The old Roman town may still be distinctly traced, occupying a small eminence in the centre of the present city, with one of its gates and some of its towers well preserved. It was here that Ferdinand and Isabella received Columbus returning from America; and from this port he sailed on his second expedition, in the year 1493. In visiting the churches of Barcelona, you are forcibly struck with an observation, that all their decorations were invented about the beginning of the 16th century, after the gold and silver of America had been brought to

Spain ; and every altar-piece demonstrates that improvement in taste did not keep pace with the increase of wealth. Riches came upon the nation by surprise, and found it unprepared to make a proper use of the abundant treasure.

A spacious and airy walk round the walls contributes, with the inclosed gardens, to make Barcelona one of the most delightful cities in the world. No one who has been there in the Spring will ever be weary of expatiating on the pleasures he has enjoyed. It is situated on a plain, open to the south-east, but protected from the west by Monjuich, and from the north by a chain of mountains, which are terminated to the west by Mont St. Pedro Martyr. In this plain, near the city, is a little stream, which in summer serves to water the country ; and to the westward, beyond Monjuich, is the Lobregat, the largest river between the Ter, which runs between Gerona and the Segre, and, rising in the Pyrenees, empties itself into the Ebro.

One of the mountains opposite to the city, called St. Jeronimo, is famous for its convent; but more especially for its gardens, which are spacious, shady, and well watered. In one of our distant excursions we visited Mont St. Pedro Martyr; from which you command more extensive prospects than from St. Jeronimo. To the north of this stands Monserrat, and, beyond it, the Pyrenees appear sinking in the horizon, resembling a wall of snow. Turning to the southward and eastward, you see the whole extent of the rich vale which supplies the city, and the numerous adjacent villages; and, beyond this, the Mediterranean bounds the distant view. To the westward flows the Lobregat, descending through the gorges of the mountains, whence it receives innumerable torrents; and, having spent its fury, moves on slowly to the sea, stretching its meandering course through an extensive plain formed by itself. We dined at a country-house belonging to the Dominicans, to which these friars go when they wish to breathe a purer air, or to retire for a

season from the restraints of the monastic order. Here they have a hall of near sixty feet, many good bed-rooms, and a gallery of ninety feet in length, by eighteen wide; open to the east and south, commanding a view at once of the plain, the mountains, the sea, and the city; with some villages, a few convents, and numberless farm-houses, scattered in the valley. Above and below these are stretched their vineyards, furnishing them with raisins and excellent wine. They received us with hospitality, and, had we been inclined to stay, would have given us beds. Here we remained till the setting sun reminded us that we must mount our horses and return. I have seldom quitted any spot with more regret; and had I not soon after left Barcelona, I should have chosen this for my retreat. Barcelona, as a residence, is not only delightful, but healthy.

But our galleys were now ready to sail for Italy, and we embarked, huzzaing and threatening the enemies of Spain, against

whom we were going. The weather was favourable to us, and Genoa soon received us into her port. We remained not long there. As soon as we had landed, we were sent to join the troops in the Milanese, commanded by the Count of Monterey. Our regimentals were soon made: and, what particularly pleased the Asturian and myself, we were incorporated in the same company. "I do not doubt, gentlemen," said Don Joachim, "that you expect to hear of some brilliant victory gained over our enemies: but I have none to relate; for, we had to serve under a general, whose prudence degenerated into timidity, or who rather seemed to have received orders to avoid getting into action." The face of my affairs was soon changed by the following accident. My comrade, who loved disputes, entered into one with a soldier of our regiment, and the quarrel rose to such a pitch, that it was agreed to decide it at the point of the sword. The Asturian chose me for his second; and his adversary brought his friend. We all four met in a private spot which we



had fixed upon ; and there I wished to reconcile the parties ; but, instead of reconciliation, they only became much more enraged against each other : nothing was to be done but to measure the ground. I soon saw the Asturian fall, mortally wounded, which worked me up into so great a fury, that, after killing our adversary's second, I had the happiness to avenge the death of my friend, by killing his conqueror.

Our combat was just finished, when three soldiers of the company arrived on the field of battle ; it having got wind that four of their comrades were gone out to fight. They ran with all speed to separate us ; but, finding they came too late, they contented themselves with helping to give the rites of sepulture to the three dead bodies, in one large grave, which we dug at the bottom of a meadow. We then returned together to the camp, as if nothing extraordinary had happened.

This affair did not fail to make some

noise in the army ; although such quarrels are the common attendants of war. My colonel having heard of it, wished to see me, out of curiosity. I presented myself before him with a submissive air : he seemed struck with my person and appearance. " Young man," said he, " your person betrays the care you take to conceal your birth. Tell me the truth. You are noble : do not fear that I shall reproach you with having taken the situation of a soldier : the title of soldier would do honour to the most illustrious house in Spain. Speak freely to me : whence come you, and what are your parents ?"

. Deeming it improper to make a mystery of my origin, I revealed it to him ; and when he had heard it, he said with great complaisance, " I will take you under my protection : I will make your fortune." I would have made my acknowledgments, but he would not give me time. " Yes," said he hastily, " be assured I will promote you as soon as I have an opportunity." The Colonel was of the house of Ponce de Leon,

and consequently a man of the first quality. I was very well pleased to have met with such a protector; and continued still to serve on the same footing, waiting for the honour of becoming a subaltern officer.

Having lost my friend the Asturian, I soon made another, who attracted me by the pleasing talents he possessed; but principally by that of playing the guitar. He was so excellent a performer, that every one took pleasure in hearing him; particularly when he accompanied it with his voice. He had gained the appellation in the army of the new Orpheus; and we became so much attached to each other, that we were hardly ever asunder. As he found I had a voice, and some taste, he taught me to play; and I improved so much under his instruction that, in six months, I became equal to himself. I began to play to the soldiers, and to divide the applause with him.

I have already said that the Count of Monterey, our general, was not prodigal of our blood. After having kept us in

inaction for six months, he received an order from Court to send fifteen hundred men into Spain, to join the army that the Marquis Los Velos was assembling in Aragon, and which was destined to march against the Catalonians, who were meditating a revolt. I had the good fortune to be amongst those who were ordered to return to Spain. We were landed at Roussillon ; and found the Spanish army near Tortosa, consisting of fifteen thousand men.

The Catalonians were already in arms. The Marquis Los Velos attacked them without delay, and put to flight the great body of the rebels, who had posted themselves in a very advantageous position, flattering themselves they should be victorious in the first engagement. Afterwards, penetrating into the country, he resolved to invest Cambriel, a small city which the Catalonians had seized in haste, to make a fortress. The besieged replied with spirit to his first summons, that they would defend the place to the last drop of their blood. We ac-

cordingly erected a battery, which thundered during five days against the walls of Cambriel: but, notwithstanding this formidable cannonade, the rebels continued to defend the town obstinately. At last, the principal part of them promised to submit, without taking the precaution to capitulate with us. This negligence was taken advantage of, without any regard to humanity; for, on entering the city, enraged at its resistance, our army proceeded to plunder, and all were delivered over to fire and sword: even women, old men, and children, were not spared. This act was as fatal to the besiegers as to the besieged; for, supposing from this barbarous conduct that we should give no quarter, the survivors of the first onset determined to fight with desperation, and sell their lives as dear as possible to their merciless and blood-thirsty enemies. For my own part, I should have been moved with pity at this sight, if necessity had not forbid me to view it with horror. I fought under the eyes of my Colonel, the sight of whom irritated my fury, excited me to mur-

der, and made me as barbarous as the rest. I was too long in the midst of the carnage, to get off without injury: I received many sabre wounds; and one of them laid me low on the earth, where I remained, amongst the dead and dying, till the conquerors, having glutted their rage, and destroyed every inhabitant, of each sex, began to cry, Long live the King! As soon as I heard this, wounded as I was, and bathed in blood, I could not refrain from joining in the chorus; and, in a feeble and dying voice, repeated, Long live the King!

Some hours after the battle, parties were sent to examine the wounded, and carry them to Salsone, which had not joined the rebels of Barcelona. They opened the doors of their hospitals to us. I had the good fortune to fall into the hands of a skilful surgeon, who, not finding any of my wounds mortal, effectually cured me; and as soon as I found myself well enough to join our camp, I set out for it.

To find me so ready in rejoining our standard, said Don Joachim, you will imagine, perhaps, that I burnt with impatience to do some brilliant act for the good of the service. If you think so, you are deceived. Be assured that the dreadful impression which the siege of Cambriel had made upon me, instead of giving me a taste for war, disgusted me with it for ever; insomuch that I took the resolution to ask the Colonel for my discharge. He was much surprised at my request, after having with much pleasure seen me fight so desperately; and he used all his endeavours to overcome the horror with which I was struck. “Young man,” said he, “it is to your want of experience that I must attribute this weakness in you: when you have made two or three campaigns, you will behold with indifference the most bloody scenes; or, rather, you will find charms in carnage. Do not leave us; and I promise you the first pair of colours that shall become vacant in the regiment.” “Señor,” said I “you are too good: honour with this commission some cavalier

more capable than myself of accustoming his mind to the honours of war; and suffer me to return to my own province, to live a more tranquil life, in the bosom of my family." "Be it so then," said the Colonel: "I will not keep you against your inclination; the king does not wish to be served, but with readiness. Go: I give you my permission."

Having obtained my discharge, I retired towards the frontier of Arragon, not without fear of meeting, before I got there, some parties of rebels, who, seeing me in the dress of a Spanish soldier, would not have failed to use me ill: but, happily, I escaped without molestation; and, crossing the Ebro, I arrived at the city of Calanda, where I stopped two days to rest myself. The third day I again set forward, and took the road to Calatayud; but I lost myself; and night having surprised me in a place where no house was near, I had no resource but to sleep under the canopy of heaven. This was no great evil to a man who had often *bivouacked* with the army.



I stretched myself on the grass, near a bush; and not being able to sleep, from the empty state of my stomach, I thought singing would be a good means of amusing myself: but I had no sooner begun an air, than my ear was struck with the sound of a guitar, accompanying my voice. I stopped immediately, to listen attentively; but hearing nothing, and thinking I deceived myself, I began the air again, and at the same time the instrument struck up also. Astonished at this prodigy, I rose with precipitation; apostrophized the player of the guitar; and, agitated as I was, cried out with transport, "Are you the new Orpheus, my comrade, or are you the devil?" "I am not the devil," said he, rising in his turn (for he was hid on the other side of the thicket), and ran to embrace me with joy. "I return thanks to heaven," said he, "for having found my dear pupil! By what accident do we meet here? I thought you dead, or in the Spanish army."

I related to him, in few words, what had happened to me: and as his frankness

equalled mine, he owned, that the day Cambriel was taken, he had found means to escape. He had deserted without remorse, liking better to follow any other trade than that of war; and had laid aside his soldier's dress, at Balvastro, to avoid the appearance of a deserter, and to travel in Spain more pleasantly. "That is astonishing," said I: "to travel comfortably, I conceive, you should have plenty of money; and I doubt your having that." "See how badly people judge for others," replied he: "know, that my guitar is a great resource: I go about, playing from city to city; and no one suffers me to go away without a handsome reward. I do not commonly sleep under the canopy of heaven; and if any thing happens to-night, it will be my own fault. I was so well amused after dinner, that it was late before I set out; and daylight failing me here, I have thought proper to stop for the night. I am pleased with this adventure, as it brings us together again: and if you are equally ready to ramble about Spain, you have only to join company with me: I will be your

faithful guide through the provinces, and our guitars will support us: you play well enough already; and you only want a few of my lessons to play equal to myself."

You will readily imagine, gentlemen, (said the young Rodillas,) that I suffered myself to be enticed away: the next morning, at day-break, we quitted our lodging, without being obliged to reckon with our host; and arrived early in the day at Calatayud; where, the first thing we inquired for was, a musical instrument maker. Having found one, we asked if he had any guitars to sell. He shewed us a variety. My comrade tried them; and finding one that was good, he bought it: he then took me to a broker, where he made me exchange my regimentals for another dress: although I did not run the risk he did; not being a deserter. This business accomplished, we went, half dead with hunger, into an inn; where we dined, like travellers who had neither eaten nor drunk for four and twenty hours.

At the end of the repast, the hostess, a light-hearted young woman, who had been a widow a year, and had buried an old husband whom she seemed perfectly to have forgotten, entered the room in which we were, and asked us, with much politeness, if we had liked the ragout of veal, and the shoulder of mutton, of which we had eaten? "We were much pleased with it, madam," said my comrade, very civilly, "as well as with the wine." "As for the wine," said the hostess, "it is from the best vineyard of La Mancha, and I dare affirm that the king himself does not drink better." "I do not doubt it," he replied, with a tone of raillery, "and I am well pleased that our good stars brought us to this inn; where we shall be willing to make some stay, if they like our talents at Calatayud." "And what are your talents, gentlemen?" said she. "We are both musicians," said my companion; "we sing well, and we play still better on the guitar: we go from city to city, to shew our acquirements; and we live in clover. But as you are not obliged to believe us on our

words, you shall hear a specimen of our performance." At the same time taking our guitars, we tuned them together, and began to play, accompanying them with our voices.

When we had played and sung two or three airs, we stopped. We had no need to ask the hostess if she was pleased with what she heard. "By St. Cecilia," she exclaimed, "this is charming! I have no longer any uneasiness to find out how your affairs will prosper. With your voices and your playing, you ought to coin millions. I am sure you will get much money here; for Calatayud is a city where they are very fond of novelty. When the Savoyards came here with their raree-shews, those merry fellows returned into their mountains loaded with *maravedis*." "Madam," said my companion, haughtily, "*maravedis* are made for that sort of gentry who divert the populace; as for ourselves, who are devoted to the amusement of the Nobility, we only play in great houses, where we accept of nothing less than *pistoles*."

Impatient to see if we had good reason to hope for a plentiful harvest in Calatayud, we repaired in the evening to one of the first houses in the city, where we announced ourselves as two travelling musicians, who played the guitar excellently. We were admitted into the presence of a large company, who expressed a wish to hear us; and, on entering the room, we made our address in a style that shewed we were not of the vulgar class. "Gentlemen," said the master of the house, "let us hear what you can do; and I must give you notice that there are some excellent connoisseurs here."—"So much the better," I replied; "that is what we wish for." At these words, I took my guitar, and played an air, which I accompanied with my voice. All the company were unanimous in their applause; some praised the sweetness of my voice, and others the tones I drew from the instrument.

"My Señors," said I, "if you are satisfied with me, you will be much more so with my companion: you have only

heard the scholar ; you shall now hear the master :” and, truly, the new Orpheus had no sooner touched his guitar, than he was interrupted with a general clapping of hands. It must be acknowledged that he surpassed himself on this occasion, and perfectly justified his appellation. After having amused them for three hours, at least, we put our guitars upon our shoulders, and took our leave ; but the master of the house did not suffer us to depart without giving us tokens of the pleasure he had felt : he presented us with a small purse, and overwhelmed us with praises.

We returned to the hotel, where our first solicitude was to see the contents of the purse ; and we were agreeably surprised to find in it twenty pistoles. “ Well, my friend,” said my comrade to me ; “ do you repent having associated yourself with me ? We must not hope to be so well paid in all the houses we go to ; we should become too rich : but, at least, we may reasonably hope that we shall not want money on our journey : our talents will support us.”

Such a happy beginning determined us to remain some days in Calatayud, persuaded that we should make some other good hits. Accordingly, the next day, and the following, we were not ill paid in some great houses we went to ; so that we were enabled to buy mules, if we wished to have them ; but, independently of the consideration that the care of them would be a burden to us, we thought our legs, of twenty years old, would do better. We travelled short stages, and stopped in every town, to offer our services to the principal inhabitants ; and even in the villages, amongst the rich labourers :—rich and poor, high and low, were equally pleased with our voices and instruments ; and if we did not get doubloons, we at least got crowns from them. As our receipts were twenty times as much as we spent, our treasure increased daily.

But the south of Spain is the soul of music : thither we determined to repair, as the proper theatre for the exhibition of our unrivalled talents. I will pass over in



silence the minor towns and villages, and come at once to the ancient and celebrated city of Granada: and here I am certain you would not pardon me, if, speaking only of our music, I should omit a description of that most interesting city.

. Granada is still mentioned by the Moors in their prayers; and their expulsion from that fine country is ever remembered by them with regret. Situated in the heart of one of the most rich and extensive plains of Europe, and upon the very lowest slopes of the snowy Sierra, where they mingle with the plains, Granada enjoys, on one side, a prospect of all that is rich and beautiful; and on the other, all that is romantic. Behind rises the Sierra Nevada, with its summits covered with eternal snow: before it is stretched out an immense plain, where winter has never sufficient power to interrupt vegetation. Its Alhambra presents the finest specimen of Moorish architecture. Two rivers, the Genil and the Darro, descending from the mountains, unite near the city, and add to

the whole a kind of interest which few other towns in Spain possess. The Alhambra is the great object of attraction in Granada. This grand specimen of Moorish magnificence stands upon a steep ridge which bounds the city to the eastward. Within this space the Moorish monarchs of Granada had accumulated all that, according to their notions, was effective in war, or magnificent and luxurious in peace. The towers, the walls, the halls of audience, the bedchambers, and the baths, which still remain in excellent preservation, all give us an idea of its pristine splendor. The views from the Square of the Cisterns are grand and interesting. On one side of the square stands the palace of Charles the Fifth, begun by him with the design of shewing the superiority of the Christian over the Moorish architecture. It is noble and simple; the execution throughout excellent; and the whole, if completed, would be a residence worthy of a great monarch. The principal gate of the palace of the Moorish kings points to the south. It is

formed of a circular arch, on two thick pillars; above which are three windows, with carvings of flowers and leaves; amid which is an Arabic inscription, signifying, "God alone is Conqueror;" a motto repeated incessantly throughout the building. Within the gate is a low gallery, adorned in like manner, with various figures and inscriptions; and supported by eight columns. This gallery leads to the principal court, which is surrounded by walls twenty-five feet in height; having in the middle a bason of water, a hundred and thirty feet in length, by thirty in breadth: this served for the purification of those who went to prayers in the Royal Mosque, which was within the palace. From this court another gallery leads, through an outer apartment, to the Hall of Audience, where the ambassadors were presented to the king. Here the Moorish artists appear to have exerted all their skill to produce a brilliant effect: the form is a square of forty-two feet, and the height nearly seventy; with nine windows, three on three sides, so placed as to throw light, in

every direction, upon the niches, the interwoven borders, the garlands of flowers and leaves, and the medallions with Arabic inscriptions of "*Glory be to God;*" "*God alone is Conqueror.*" The intersecting arches and circles are adorned with flowers, fruits, and shells: from the floor to the roof, all is ornament, and of various colours; deep blue, red, green, or highly-finished gilding. The ceiling is a kind of cupola, composed of wood of various colours, silvered or gilt, forming circles, crowns, and stars. The pavement is of various-coloured tiles.

The Court of Lions is the most magnificent of the Alhambra. It is in length a hundred and thirty feet, and seventy-five in breadth, surrounded by a low gallery, supported by one hundred and twenty-eight pillars of white marble. The view of these delicate columns, little more than ten feet high, and of uniform diameter, is more admirable than all the glitter of the royal apartments. In the centre is a large circular bason of marble, supported by

twelve lions. The remaining parts of the Alhambra are such as might be expected in the palace of an Eastern monarch. Every thing appears contrived for the sake of coolness. The marble floors, the roofs of spar in the form of icicles, the gloom of the apartments, the baths, and the fountains, are all the luxuries of a warm climate. In the Hall of the Two Sisters, so called from two large pieces of marble in the pavement, the roof is finished with infinite labour; and were it not for the splendor of the colours, might easily be mistaken for a cool dripping cave. In the corresponding apartment, called the Hall of the Abencerraxes, is a fountain, in the marble bason of which is perceived a reddish stain: this you are told proceeded from the blood of six and thirty cavaliers, of the noble family of Abencerraxes, who were beheaded on false accusations;—one of them for an unlawful connexion with the Sultana; and the rest for an alleged conspiracy. The Sultana was cleared by four knights of Spain overthrowing her four accusers; the last of whom, in dying,

acknowledged the falsehood of the accusation; which arose from the baneful passion of envy.

The Sultana's dressing closet is a pleasant little apartment, ornamented with paintings; a marble slab is inserted in the pavement, with holes, and a vacancy beneath, where incense was burned; the smoke of which ascended through these holes, and thus perfumed every person standing over them. The views from the windows of these apartments are very grand. It is evident, that what now exists of the palace is but a small part of the original building. Connected with the old fortifications of the Alhambra are several towers, the highest of which is used as a prison. On the summit of the tower is a great bell, never rung but upon particular occasions. The sound extends over the whole plain of Granada, and never fails to bring together immense crowds, to learn the cause. Upon a height, at the distance of two hundred yards from that part of the ridge on which the outer walls of the Alhambra stands,

are the palace and gardens of Generalife. The copious run of water through the grounds, the beauty of the prospects, and the shaded walks, render this a delightful retreat. It is said to have been the palace of the Sultana; and here the Moorish style of building and ornament appears in its proper place, and to the greatest advantage; presenting fountains, shady overarching bowers, baths, and cool retreats.

In this favourite abode of the Moors, you may be sure two sons of Apollo were not neglected; and we reaped, for some time, a golden harvest: and when we fancied we had gained all we were likely to get here, we went to Seville. This was the grand theatre of our exploits. The capital of Andalusia is celebrated for the attention they pay to strangers who are distinguished by either useful or pleasing talents. As soon as it was known in this city that two famous players on the guitar were arrived, the amateurs were overwhelmed with curiosity to know whether Fame had

boasted too much of our abilities; and they were so anxious to hear us, that all came flocking to us, particularly those who piqued themselves on playing well. Each one seemed more charmed than the other with our manner of playing, which, they said, helped them to refine their taste. They could never admire us enough. Many of them became our scholars; and paid us well for their lessons.

The gardens of the Alcazar, at Seville, are refreshing and voluptuous in the summer evenings; parterres, surrounded by terraces, intersected with myrtle hedges and jasmine bowers, and perfumed by clumps of orange trees, have also the advantage of abundance of water: nothing can be more delicious than the water-works in a hot day, sprinkling the gardens: the flowers seem to acquire new vigour; the odours, exhaled from the orange, citron, and lemon trees, grow more poignant, more balsamic, and the company ten times more exhilarated. Here, with our guitars, we set the company dancing: and all was joy and rapture.



It is a heavenly residence in spring. The palace is not equal to the Alhambra at Granada, but ranks next to it; and has some interest attached to it, from having long been the residence of Pedro, by some called 'The Cruel,' by others, 'The Just.'—The cruel death to which his father put his beloved Inez de Castro is assigned as the cause of the severity of his character; as after her death he never smiled. The most brilliant epocha of this city was soon after the discovery of America, when all the new-found treasures were poured into Europe from the fleets that returned from the new hemisphere into the Guadalquivir, and made Seville the magazine of its invaluable productions. The sovereign frequently honoured this place with his presence: merchants from all parts flocked hither, to open houses of commerce, or to provide themselves with goods for foreign markets: the sailors and adventurers of the Indian fleets rendezvoused here, and squandered, with wanton prodigality, the wealth they had acquired in America: then indeed was the time when the Spaniard

cried out, in the exultation of his heart, "He that has not seen Seville, has not seen the wonder of the world!" Its court was then the most splendid in Europe: its streets were thronged with an immense concourse of people: its river was crowded with ships; and its quays covered with bales of precious merchandize: great were the buildings begun, and still greater the projects for future structures: its prosperity seemed proof against the fickleness of fortune:—but now the superior excellence of the port of Cadiz causes the galleons to be stationed there.

The Giralda, rising far above every edifice, has a very noble effect: its aqueduct is one of the most wonderful monuments of antiquity existing in the universe: it brings such a body of water to Seville, that all houses in the town have the benefit of it, except those supplied by the fountain of the archbishop. The great ornament of Seville is the Cathedral: it is impossible to enter this noble pile without immediately experiencing those sensations,

which great objects produce in the mind. The loftiness of the arched roof; the height and elegance of the clustered shafts which form the pillars, and the length and proportions of the aisles, at once arrest the attention. It is not possible, at first, to consider its minor ornaments, the numerous and elegant chapels ranged along its side walls; the beautiful choir in the centre of the principal aisle; and the variety of admirable paintings, many of them by Murillo, which adorn it on every side. The choir is so magnificent, it may be said to be encumbered with beauties. In front is the principal altar, rich with gold and silver, valuable marbles, and paintings: on each side is a magnificent organ; and the hundred and forty-four seats, which surround it, are of wood, carved with infinite labour, and representing a variety of scriptural subjects. The choir is a rich church of itself, and almost makes us forget the still nobler temple in which it is enshrined: the length is four hundred and twenty feet, by two hundred and sixty-three, and three

hundred and fifty feet high ; it receives light from eighty windows of painted glass.

The treasures of this church are invaluable: the plate used in divine service is of great value, and, in some instances, of excellent workmanship. In this cathedral, a simple tablet records the birth and death of Christopher Columbus. But Spain cannot claim the honour of affording shelter to the bones of this great man ; for, after they had lain some time in the Convent of Santa Maria de las Cuevas, they were transferred, across the Atlantic, to the New World, which he had discovered. Had they been the bones of some holy drone, who, a thousand years ago, vegetated on the summit of a mountain, or in the dreary wilderness, the monks would have suffered martyrdom ere they would have parted with relics so precious. Such is human nature ! Such is popular applause, for a life of toil and patriotism ! Behold him sailing in quest of a new hemisphere : the whole kingdom interested in his prosperity.—He returns : a new world, filled

with treasure, is added to the Spanish domain:—the kingdom rejoices, and Columbus is the greatest of men: yet, in a few years, this great man is disgraced; his remains no longer rest in Spain; nor does the New World bear his name. His son Fernando Columbus was buried with great honours in the cathedral; a long inscription records his many excellencies. He was the founder of the great library attached to the cathedral; and many of the most valuable books were collected by himself, in different parts of the world. This library contains some very ancient manuscripts; and is one of the most valuable now existing in Spain. The sword of Don Garci Perez de Vargas, who conquered Seville from the Moors, is in this library. The tower of Giralda is the boast of Seville; and the Spaniards scruple not to glory in a work of their Saracen ancestors, whom they commonly speak of with the greatest contempt and abhorrence. This tower is three hundred and fifty feet high. On the summit is a female figure, in bronze, carrying in one hand a palm-branch, and in the other a

shield. The weight of the whole is thirty four quintals ; yet it turns round with the slightest breeze. This tower was built by Guaver, a Moor, and a native of Seville. From the Girakla the view is magnificent. Seville, and the surrounding country, to a great extent, is extended before the eye. To the south lies the Alcazar, with the Guadalquiver meandering to the sea : to the north are the skirts of the Sierra Morena, and various turnings of the Guadalquiver, as it approaches Seville. The immense plain of Seville is thickly interspersed with plantations of olive and orange trees ; and the verdure at some places is unrivalled for beauty.

Next to the cathedral, the Alcazar claims attention : this also is the work of the Moors. Its courts, halls, Arabian columns, recesses, and galleries, present fine specimens of the Saracen taste ; and are only surpassed by the superior beauties of the Alhambra. The Hall of Ambassadors possesses a great variety of ornaments in gilding, and marble pavements : several

halls are appropriated to the reception of paintings, statues, and models, for the use of the students of the academy of drawing. Here also are preserved various inscriptions, illustrative of the former state of Andalusia. From these halls there is a view of the garden: it is kept up in the Moorish style, with fountains, terraces, labyrinths, and grotesque figures, formed of myrtle. The Guadalquiver is one of the boasts of Spain, and the favourite stream of the Spanish poets. Vessels of two hundred tons burden can navigate as high as Seville.

But if Seville derives great advantage from the Guadalquiver, it has also at times received great injury from it. Deriving its origin amongst the mountains, and swelling throughout the whole of its course, by the addition of mountain streams, after heavy rains, or sudden thaws, it is liable to overflow its banks. Great pains have been taken to adorn the sides of this beautiful river with trees: the principal *alameda* is planted with above a thousand of them, which form a delightful shade. At one end

are two lofty pillars, on which are placed the statues of Hercules and Julius Cæsar; the one called the founder, the other the restorer, of the city. It is also decorated with fountains of excellent water.

We had been two months at Seville, and had gained a great deal of money, when the demon Discord shook her torch over us. I do not know what displeased me in my comrade; but I began to discover faults in him which I had never observed before. We had no longer the same regard for each other. Each would have his own way; we became contradictory; and, at last, we absolutely quarrelled. "Comrade," said I to the deserter, "I see we were not born to live together; we had much better separate." "That is what I was about to propose," said he hastily; "you have been beforehand with me: let us divide our funds, which amount to about four hundred pistoles, and let each one take his own, and do as he pleases." I took him instantly at his word; and we bade each other an eternal adieu.



I rejoiced at having got rid of the new Orpheus, who in fact was not a companion at all to my mind. I often regretted having joined company with a deserter, and leading a life so little suited to my birth; but I never till now had the resolution to listen to the reproaches of my conscience. I now turned my mind to the part I was to take in the world: "What must I resolve upon?" said I to myself: "Must I return to the profession of arms? No; I have renounced it for ever: I had rather return to Burgos, to join my brother; who, not knowing what is become of me, will be anxious to see me:" and on this I determined.

As Burgos is a great distance from Seville by land, I resolved, if I could find a vessel, to embark in it for the Bay of Biscay. Fortunately I found one bound to St. Andero, which is only twenty leagues from Burgos; and I went on board her, with a dozen other passengers, Biscayans and Navarese, who were returning to their own country.

We had already doubled Cape St. Vincent, and had flattered ourselves that we should have a short and prosperous voyage, when a large Barbary corsair came thundering upon us, without a possibility of our being able to avoid him. He immediately commanded us to surrender without resistance; threatening, in case of refusal, to sink us; which we thought best to avoid. We suffered him quietly to take possession, and load us with chains: and you may easily imagine they did not forget to search us from head to foot; it being no small satisfaction to the pirate to find a purse with a hundred doubloons in my pocket. He seemed quite rejoiced; and supposing, from that circumstance, that I was a person able to pay a large ransom, he affected to distinguish me from the rest of my companions in misfortune, whose purses he had not found so well lined. He conversed with me almost exclusively; and I could perceive that, satisfied with my answers, he was much prejudiced in my favour.

Observing I had a guitar over my shoulder, he asked me if I could play on that instrument: "Captain," said I, "you shall judge for yourself, if you please." "Very well," he replied; "satisfy my curiosity: let us hear what you can do." I immediately tuned my guitar, and played and sung as well as the situation of my mind would permit; which gave the corsair much satisfaction. "Captive," said he, "return thanks to Heaven for the talents you have received; your treatment shall not be the worse for it. When we come to Algiers, I will let you know how you shall be employed in my house."

This pirate, who had taken the turban, and whose name was Pegelin, was a renegade Spaniard, of the province of Navarre. He had formerly commanded a privateer out of St. Sebastian; but growing discontented with the Spanish service, he attached himself to the republic of Algiers. I was very anxious to know what kind of employment he intended for me; and as soon as I arrived at his

house, I was informed of it. "Captive," said he, "you have the good fortune to please me. To give you a convincing proof of it, I shall put Targut, my son, who is ten years old, into your hands. Teach him the Castilian language, and also to sing; and play on the guitar. This is what I require of you: and when you have taught him these three things, be assured my acknowledgments shall exceed your expectation."

I assured Pegelin that I felt myself so much honoured with the employment, that I should spare no pains to acquit myself to his satisfaction. Upon which, anxious I should see his son, he called him, and presented him to me. I was very well pleased with the appearance of the Turk; and, as he spoke a little Spanish, I addressed him. His answers made me judge favourably of his understanding, and he appeared to have spirit. Notwithstanding I spent every morning in his room, and two or three hours after dinner, Targut at first made but a very slow progress; but, as my liberty depended on the success of my undertaking, I did not

relax: on the contrary, I took so much pains, that, by constantly repeating the same thing, I became insensibly to make my lessons understood.

In the course of four years I taught him to sing scientifically, and to play equally well on the guitar: but I could not make him a perfect scholar; as he had no taste. Happily his father was not a connoisseur; and, imagining I had made him a perfect musician, he was always congratulating me on my success; but never talked of setting me at liberty. My days were consumed in slavery; a long period had elapsed, which I think would have been extended to a much greater length, if an event had not taken place, which I am about to recite, and which I hope will afford you much amusement.

Pegelin had with him a young female captive of Granada, called Zeinabi, whom he had taken in one of his voyages, and whom he perfectly doated on. He kept her shut up in an apartment, where no one

entered but himself: he passed whole days with her in impassioned tenderness; and lived but for her. One day she fell sick; and instantly the most skilful physicians of the city were called in, who, having fruitlessly used all their endeavours to cure her, pronounced her attacked with a consumption. He asked the physicians what kind of disorder that was. "It is a complaint," they replied, "as old as the days of Hippocrates. It is a corrosive juice that mixes in the whole mass of blood, insensibly consumes all parts of the body, and death ensues. This disorder is very common in England, where many of both sexes die of it. It is peculiar to that nation, and we have never heard that it has hitherto been introduced into Spain or Africa." "But, Doctors," cried the amorous Navarese, alarmed at this discourse, "is there no remedy for this dangerous complaint?" "We know of none," they said, "but death." At these words the physicians retired; giving up Zeinabi, and leaving Pegelin in a state bordering on distraction. Seeing him so overwhelmed with grief, I pitied him;

and, addressing myself respectfully to him, "Captain," said I, "the affliction you are in gives your slave the greatest concern:—since the physicians, who ought to have remedies proper to heal all sorts of disorders, have none for Zeinabi, allow ~~me~~ to try one. The disorder of this lady appears to me to be the effect of melancholy; which can be dissipated by exciting suddenly an emotion that will cause an expansion of the heart: to cause this, allow me to try an experiment, which has just come into my mind. If you will permit me to go into the apartment of Zeinabi, I will try, if, by making the most extraordinary sounds on the guitar, I cannot cause some sudden and salutary emotion." "You shall certainly make the trial," said the corsair; "though I cannot hope for much effect from it. If it does no good, it at least can do no harm. Besides," continued he, "for a disorder of which we know nothing, it is right to trust something to chance."

I accordingly made every preparation for acting the part of a physician of a new kind.

I took my guitar, and followed the Captain into the room in which Zeinabi was lying on a sofa. "Captive," said he to me, shewing me the lady, stretched out at full length upon a bed of Chinese taffety, "look attentively at that young woman. Would it not be the greatest of all misfortunes to me, if death should tear her from me?" "Señor," said I, "you have cause to be inconsolable; but Heaven, who watches over the preservation of his most beautiful works, will not permit Zeinabi to be cut off in the beginning of her most beautiful days." Truly I had never seen any thing more lovely than the face of this Granadine. If I was impatient to know the success of my remedy, Pegelin was still more so, and made me a sign to begin: upon which I cleared my voice, and sung a tender air, which I accompanied with the sweetest sounds of the guitar; but observing an air of that description augmented the languor of her disorder, I began directly to sing a comic song; and, as nothing helps to move others more than being moved yourself, I made, in playing the instrument, the most violent contortions



and absurd grimaces. When I had done this for half an hour, Zeinabi began all at once to burst into the most violent fits of laughter. At this extraordinary effect of my guitar (or, if you please, of my ridiculous grimaces) the amorous renegade felt extremely delighted; but, finding she laughed continually, and seemed to have no power to check herself, he became alarmed. He feared that this trial might terminate fatally to the young Granadine; and I was at a loss myself what to think. Happily, Zeinabi soon comforted us; she ceased to laugh, and said to Pegelin, "My dear friend, let your apprehensions on my account subside; the captive has cured me: my melancholy could not withstand his manner of playing and singing. I felt all at once quite different from what I had been; and I cannot too much thank this great physician, who knew so much better than others how to cure me. I hope you will, at my request, grant him his liberty." "Ah! Madam," said the pirate, "it is the least reward I can give him, to shew my gratitude. Leave to me the acquittal of your

obligation to him ; and be assured I will not forget he has saved her I love."

I was pleased to find I had not to deal with one quite devoid of gratitude. "Christian," said Pegelin to me, the same day, in private, "you will not be sufficiently paid for what you have done for my mistress and my son, if I content myself with breaking your chains, and sending you into your own country ; although I could get a large ransom for such a slave as you. Here, take this purse ; it is the same I took from you, the day you fell into our hands. You shall soon see the coasts of Spain again ; and it gives me pleasure to think, that, in rejoining your relations, you will not have a very melancholy history to give them of your slavery."

Had I taken nothing from Algiers but my purse and my person, I should have been very well satisfied with my fate : but it was determined I should go with a still greater cause for satisfaction. In the morning, the favourite slave of Zeinabi, having found

means of speaking to me in private, said, (putting a little box into my hand,) "Here, young Castilian; my mistress, fearing that the Señor Pegelin will not recompense you as you deserve, desires you to receive, on her part, this present, which she only requests you will carefully conceal." This request caused me great uneasiness: I thought the Granadine had made me this present unknown to the Captain; and I feared, if this corsair should discover it before my departure, my affairs would wear a bad aspect. Happily, all went on well; I was put on board a swift-sailing vessel, which soon gained the strait, and landed me at Tariffa.

I was scarcely in this village, when, impatient as Pandora to open my box, I satisfied my curiosity as soon as I could, without being seen by any one, and found ten precious stones of different kinds. Although I was not conversant in precious stones, these appeared to me so beautiful, that I supposed them very valuable. I looked at first with great pleasure at these brilliants; but fear

soon came to moderate my joy. "By what means," said I, "can I get in safety to Burgos? To go by sea to St. Andero will be exposing myself to fall again into the power of a pirate: if I go by the muleteers, and these jocose fellows should think me rich, I shall be robbed. What can I do in this embarrassment which my riches cause me? Do what Heaven, no doubt, has just put into my head—Take the road to Burgos in the miserable clothes I now wear; it is a sure means of deceiving robbers."

I rested on this idea; and, hiding my riches with more care than ever, I took the road to Seville as a poor captive delivered from Barbary after five years of slavery. In order to play the beggar more to the life, I asked permission at the inns to sleep upon straw, after eating a morsel of bread and cheese: I even begged sometimes upon the highways, when I met with men whose ill looks made me tremble for my diamonds. These men caused me a thousand fears; as I met on the road I know not how many of that description. Not to take up your attention

too long, (said Don Joachim,) I will merely say, that, by adopting this ingenious mode of travelling, I am arrived here without meeting with the slightest accident. I doubt not that you wish to see the present I received from Zeinabi: I will shew it you.

Don Joachim, at these words, drew from the bottom of his pocket a little box, which he opened, and laid before us. It contained three diamonds, two turquoises, two rubies, and three emeralds. We looked at each one attentively; and were charmed with their beauty. "How much," said Ferrari, "do you think all these are worth?" "Don Mathias de Grajal can tell us," said Don Sebastian; "for he understands the value of stones as well as a jeweller." Grajal, after attentively examining them, estimated the whole at six thousand ducats. Upon which we all congratulated Don Joachim, whom we denominated The Happy Slave. We did not fail, however, to reproach him, in a jocose manner, for having left the army in Catalonia, and for associating himself with a deserter. "Truly, my brother," said

Don Sebastian, " I know not how to reconcile the valour you demonstrated at the siege of Cambriel, with the weakness, or rather unworthy terror, which gave you so much disgust to the service. " Brother," returned Don Joachim, " you must attribute it to nature, who forms us as she pleases ; and, besides, I had my share of trouble and danger ; and my place is now filled by another, as well qualified for it as myself."

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BOOK VI.

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**D**ON Joachim de Rodillas, was not one too many in our society : it might be said with truth he was an acquisition ; for he added to the happiness of it by his polished mind and pleasing talents. We continued to live together for four months, in the pleasantest manner the country could afford, when we learned that the Duke of Ossuna, who was lately returned from his government of Naples, had been arrested by order of the King, and conducted to the castle of Almeda.

Although there was nothing in this news calculated to interest me, for reasons I have already given, I could not help being much hurt at it. I loved the disposition of the Duke of Ossuna, well as I knew his faults. I knew them balanced, far more than balanced, by so many excellent qualities, that

I readily pardoned him the chagrin he had caused me. What godlike acts did I know of his ! Had there been no shade of faults, he would not have been a human being. It was his superior understanding and talents that raised him up enemies, not his faults. I felt so much affected with his misfortunes, and was so forcibly attached to his exalted character, that I entreated Ferrari to allow me to go to Madrid, and learn myself the present state of this nobleman's affairs. Ferrari granted my request, upon condition that I would return to him ; which I promised ; and immediately set out from Burgos, with a muleteer, for Madrid.

Nevertheless, impatient as I was to learn the affairs of the Duke of Ossuna, I first attended to my own interest. I went to see the ladies with whom I was in business, who at first only reproached me for not having written to them since I left Madrid. "What negligence !" said the Señora Dalfa : "you take no part in our society ; you do not seem interested about us. However,



our trade does not go on badly ; and my niece and I make it better and better every day, by the means we adopt. Do you know, we have actually, in our box, twelve hundred pistoles ?” “ What say you !” exclaimed I ; “ you must have youthified a fine number of old faces to have amassed such a sum ?” “ Oh ! as for that,” said Bernardina, laughing, “ they were not all wrinkled faces that have passed through our hands ; and what is more astonishing, the very oldest appears under forty.”

After a pretty long conversation, and rising to take leave of the ladies, the aunt stopped me : “ Stay, stay, Gonzalez,” said she, “ I have here in a bag four hundred pistoles, which I have set apart for you, as the third of our ready money, to deliver to you the first time we saw you.” At the same time she went for the bag, and brought it to me ; assuring me they would at all times give a faithful account of the money in hand. I was delighted with the dealings of my partners, and paid them a thousand

compliments thereon. I could not enough admire their honour; though, perhaps, it was less admirable than I thought it. How did I know, in fact, if the four hundred pistoles ~~was~~ or was not the third part of the ready money, But I had very good reason to be contented with my share: four hundred pistoles gained without trouble was not to be despised. For women, who could have used me much worse, it was dealing nobly with me.

On leaving the ladies, I returned directly to Andresillo, where I had always lodged, to put my bag in my portmanteau; then set off towards the house of the Duke of Ossuna, in hopes of meeting some domestic of my acquaintance. I was not deceived in my expectation. I soon saw coming out of the house a stout young man, whom I recollected to have seen in Sicily, as page to his Excellency. I saluted him with civility; and going up to him with an open air, "Señor Cylindro," said I, "you do not recollect me, I suppose?" "Pardon me,"

said he ; “ you are Señor Estevanille Gonzalez : I remember you very well ; though you are a little altered.” “ And you, my dear comrade, are not a little altered,” said I ; “ you are grown three cubits higher, at least, since I saw you. Do, pray, tell me, as a favour, some news of my old master, whom I still love as much as when I was in his service.” “ We are not in a proper place here,” said Cyandro, “ to speak of the affairs of a nobleman who is so dear to us : let us go into the first tavern we find, and over a bottle of wine I will inform you of the embarrassment into which our Viceroy is plunged, in the midst of his prosperity.” As I would not lose so favourable an opportunity of learning what I was anxious to know, we went into a tavern ; where Cyandro, after taking a glass of wine, began his relation.

“ Were you at Madrid when the Duke of Ossuna made his entry there ?” “ No,” said I ; “ I was at the castle of a gentleman, one of my friends, who lived near the gates

of Burgos ; I lived there in the enjoyment of a pleasant society, without taking any part in the events passing at Court : I was even ignorant that his Excellency was returned from his government of Naples, until I heard of his confinement, a short time since."

" You would have seen," continued Cyliandro, " the most magnificent entrance of a Viceroy you can imagine. No Governor of New Spain ever made so vain-glorious, and (between ourselves) so imprudent a parade. Immediately, all the discreet Spaniards, who saw it, censured him ; while they admired his character and his splendor. The enemies of my master, who are very numerous, and very powerful, did not fail to make a crime of the pompous livery of his suite ; the magnificence of the presents he made to the Royal Family ; and the riches he brought out of Italy ; saying they could easily judge thereby of the fidelity and disinterestedness of his government.

" But the most unfortunate part of it," continued the page, " is, that the King, who

was certainly prejudiced against him, after receiving him perfectly well, sent him to the castle of Almeda. If one may believe the friends and partizans of the house of Giron, it is only a storm which will soon pass over. They say that the Viceroy, in consideration of the important services he has rendered the State, and his great exploits in Sicily, where he is adored, will triumph over all his enemies, and return soon to Naples. I wish it, but I do not believe it; and I tremble for him, when I reflect he has for enemies the Count of Benevent, Don Balthasar de Zuniga, and the Count Duke Olivarez, who are the three most powerful noblemen at Court; especially the two latter, who divide between them the government of the Monarchy. I fear that these formidable adversaries, who have had the power of ruining the Duke of Lerma and his son, will also overwhelm my master."

"Oh, no!" said I to Cylindro, "we must hope they will not be able to induce the King to pay with the blackest ingratitude

the services of a man who, without dispute, has done the greatest honour to the Spanish nation." "I can say nothing to that," said the page; "for, notwithstanding his services, which have turned to the glory of the Crown, and which unequivocally speak for him, they will not find him innocent, I fear." "What say you!" exclaimed I, with concern. Cy-lindro answered, that "they imputed crimes to him, instead of praising him. I see but too well the fate his three enemies are preparing for him. They will not be content with labouring night and day for his fall, but they will keep him in strict and rigorous confinement: I never can think of him but with heart-felt grief. Shut up in the castle of Almeda, he has only two servants with him, who are denied the liberty of going out; and no society, but the Governor of the castle, with six soldiers. Moreover, this Governor is his bitter enemy. Great God! is this the treatment shewn to a Vice-roy, who never had his equal in the world!"

Cylindro was quite overcome, and shed tears; and I could not refrain from following

his example. I now inquired after Thomas and Quivillo. "As for Thomas," said he, "the gout holds him fast in his arm-chair in the house: Quivillo is very well; and waits, like me, to see the issue of my Lord's affairs, to regulate thereby his own."

After this conversation, the page and I parted: he went upon an errand which the Duchess had sent him; and I to the house of the Duke, to see Thomas and Quivillo. I was first taken to the room of the latter, who gave me as cordial a reception as a man overwhelmed with chagrin could do. "Señor," said I, "I have travelled from Burgos to Madrid, to inquire into the situation of my former master; and, upon the melancholy news I have heard, I am come to tell you that no one is more sensibly affected than myself, in spite of the causes his Excellency has given me to complain of him." "Oh! my lord now thinks very differently of you," said Quivillo; "he has acknowledged his injustice towards you; and I have heard him say, more than once, he repented it. "This information," said I, "makes

me feel still more for his misfortune. I have neither malignity nor revenge in my disposition : I would gladly render the Duke any service to make his situation more comfortable." " I am charmed," said Quivillo, " to see you still affectionate to this nobleman ; for he will be much pleased, perhaps more than you think of, with the interest you take in his concerns. He still flatters himself, that all the principal accusations preferred against him will appear to his judges so many testimonies in his favour. He finds they make crimes of his exploits, which have been most glorious and advantageous to the State : in a word, from the attention the King has paid to the memorial which the Duchess has presented for the exculpation of her husband, he is persuaded that there is only hatred, envy, and vengeance, aimed against a Viceroy so worthy of their good opinion. Let us then, friend Gonzalez, console ourselves with the flattering hope that he will soon be delivered from his prison, full of honour ; and his enemies be overwhelmed with shame."



As we continued our conversation, a page came to say to Quivillo, that the Duchess wanted to speak to him. We parted directly: he went to her Grace, and I wished to see Thomas before I left the house. I found him in his chamber, laid on the bed, with a little table before him, on which he was writing; although he had the gout in his hands and feet. He remembered me at once; and the sight of me gave him pleasure. "My dear Estevanille," said he, "how sorry I am not to have sooner found you, to tell you I have made your peace with my master: he is no longer angry with you. As I seized every favourable moment to appease him, I at length succeeded; and his anger is past. Indeed, he feels regret for having punished you too severely. I would have informed you of this; but I knew not where you were. If you had come to Naples, and presented yourself before my lord, I am certain you would have regained his favour. But," continued Thomas, "better late than never. When he is cleared from the crimes that

the envious are laying to his charge, be assured you shall be re-instated in your place, or rather in mine, which my infirmities no longer permit me to fill."

I was now convinced, by the valet-de-chambre's conversation, that I had been wrong in supposing him my secret enemy; and, reproaching myself from the bottom of my soul for having thought ill of him, I thanked him for the good-will he evinced towards me.

Taking my leave of Thomas, I returned to my hotel, looking upon myself as a man already entered into the service of the Duke of Ossuna; and not doubting that this nobleman would soon be at liberty, and sent perhaps again to Naples as Viceroy of the kingdom, I promised myself much pleasure in this government: but, whilst I was anticipating my joy, the affairs of the Viceroy took a bad turn. Quivillo, whom I saw the next day, said to me, "Do you know what has happened? They have given

notice to the King, that the partizans of the Duke of Ossuna have resolved to force his prison : upon which he has ordered an augmentation of his guard, both within and without the castle of Almeda, expressly forbidding any one to have access to him. You see," said he, " they have set about this false report, to have an opportunity of preventing those attached to this unfortunate nobleman from approaching him :"—and truly, two days after, they imprisoned all the disbanded officers, and Sicilian and Neapolitan gentlemen, who were in the service of the Duke. The next day, the Marquis of Pobar, Captain of the archers of the Guards, came to the hotel Ossuna, to arrest Quivillo. As I was present, the Marquis asked me if I belonged to the Duke. I said, with a resolute air, that if I was not actually now in the service of the Duke, I had been. " That is enough," said he ; " you must follow us : you will not make too many in the royal prisons." Instead of being dismayed at seeing myself surrounded by the archers, I armed myself with courage,

and assumed a confident air. I did more ; I felt proud of going to prison as a partizan of the Duke. I was less afflicted than pleased with my misfortune, which I hoped his Excellency would some day turn to good account.

A man who had seen the horrible dungeon of the Inquisition might see without dread the place where I was shut up. It was a large room, called the Royal Chamber, very dark, and about which were placed six beds ; each one with a straw mattress the thickness of three fingers, and a quilt. But if our beds were indifferent in this prison, we were recompensed by being well fed ; the Prime-minister making it his particular care that the state-prisoners should not want. We should have been too happy, had the beds been equal to our food.

We were six of us in the Royal Chamber, all arrested from precaution ; that is to say, to prevent what we might attempt for the liberation of the Duke of Ossuna from

the castle of Almeda. When we found each other out as partizans of the illustrious prisoner, we consoled ourselves that we were in good company. Besides this, our jailer, a sensible man, and secretly attached to this nobleman, informed himself accurately of all that passed at Court respecting his Excellency, of which he constantly gave us an account. "Gentlemen," said he to us one day, "I have important news to tell you: it has been debated this morning, in Council, in presence of the King, whether the prisoner should be tried with all the severity of the law, or set at liberty; or whether he should be confined for life. The Council are divided on these heads. The Duke's enemies say he ought to be tried for high-treason; others, of a contrary opinion, are for mercy, and would willingly liberate him. The latter admit that the Viceroy is not without his faults; but they say they are counterbalanced by a thousand glorious achievements, which he has done for the good of the State and the cause of Christianity; and it is more just that the

King should listen to mercy than severity. Those who are of the first opinion, are enraged at this ; and say there is nothing to be done, but to proceed according to law : condemn him, if they find him guilty ; and acquit him if innocent. At last, it is resolved that he is to be tried, upon the information they are waiting to receive from Sicily and Naples ; the Viceroy of these kingdoms having orders from Court to inquire minutely into the conduct of the Duke of Ossuna while he was Governor."

This report gave me great uneasiness ; for I well knew that this nobleman was not free from blame : nevertheless, I flattered myself that the strong would overpower the weak ; and, in consideration of the important victories he had gained over the Turks, he would find favourable judges. A short time after, the jailer informed us that the documents were arrived, and were laid before the Council, who had named two Commissioners, to examine them, and make their report : that these Commissioners were Don Gaspar de Vallejo and Don Francis

Alarcon, two noblemen of undoubted integrity. This gave us hopes that our dear prisoner would soon get rid of this business. We had still greater reason to flatter ourselves with this hope, when they told us, fifteen days after, that the informations from Sicily tended to discharge the accused ; or, more properly speaking, that, instead of blaming his administration, they were full of commendation, and the nobility and people were unanimous in asking to have him again for their Viceroy. The informations from Naples were not so favourable ; they imputed to him a great number of crimes : but the Commissioners admitted that the chief part of the accusations were vague, and without foundation.

Although the judges had decided that the Duke was more innocent than guilty, they hesitated about setting him at liberty ; fearing that this enterprising man, with so many friends and partizans, after such harsh treatment, would seek revenge. They therefore determined to keep him in the castle of Almeda ; and, to soften the rigour of his

confinement, he was permitted to receive the visits of his relations and friends. They also set at liberty those who had been imprisoned for attachment to him; and they even permitted that he should be attended by all his servants.

I readily quitted the Royal Chamber, to return to Andresillo; where I found my portmanteau as I left it; my host being a man incapable of the least dishonesty. Impatient to learn some news of my friend Quivillo, I went to the Duke's house, to inquire for him, not doubting that he also was set at liberty; and I was informed he was with Thomas. I instantly joined them: and the valet-de-chambre no sooner saw me, than he said, "You could not have come more opportunely: I was impatiently waiting for you, to make you an offer, which I shall advise you to accept. Yesterday, my gout permitting me to take a ride, I repaired to the castle of Almeda, to see the Duke; and I mentioned you to him. He could not refrain from laughing, when I told him



you were imprisoned as a man who had been his servant." "Ah, poor lad!" said he, "I have only caused him trouble for all his services to me." "Your Excellency," said I, "would do well to have him about you. A servant of his character will afford you some amusement." "I will take him with pleasure," said the Duke; "and if he will come and shut himself up in prison with me, I shall be much obliged to him." "How! if he will?" retorted I: "never doubt it, my lord; he will take a pride in sacrificing his liberty to you, till you recover yours."

"You hear," said Thomas, "how far I have gone for you. Consider well of it. Reflect whether you love the Duke of Osuna sufficiently, to go and share his troubles in the castle of Almeda? You may reasonably suppose he will not be there all his life. The King's eyes are at this time closed to this nobleman's merit; but time will remove the film of prejudice, and you will then find you have taken a judicious step in shutting

yourself up with this illustrious prisoner." I answered, that I wished for nothing better than to devote myself to the service of his Excellency, and live with him in confinement, if he were kept there all my days. "With these sentiments, then," said the valet-de-chambre, "you will be so much more valuable to the Duke, as he is not ignorant that you are in good circumstances." Quivillo added, "Gonzalez, you will be an acquisition to my lord; go and keep him company: your lively disposition will much contribute to diminish his trouble and uneasiness, and divert his mind from thinking of his misfortunes." "I am determined," I replied; "and I wish myself already in the castle of Almeda: I think I shall be more comfortable there, than in the Royal Chamber, where I have been."

This being settled amongst us, I went directly to the hotel, to pack up; and brought my portmanteau to the Duke's house, where Quivillo was waiting to conduct me to a new prison, in one of the Duke's carriages.

When we got there, we found a guard at the gate, who let us pass, without speaking a word, into a large court; at the bottom of which was a marble staircase that led to the apartments of the prisoner.

The Viceroy, (for I always call him so for distinction, or the Duke of Ossuna more properly,) although he could not be astonished at seeing me, after what Thomas had said, expressed some surprise. "What, Gonzalez!" said he; "can I believe friendship for your former master brings you to share his disgrace? Is it possible you can prefer the melancholy life you must lead here to the pleasures of Madrid?" "Yes, my lord," I replied; "the honour of being about your Excellency, and serving you, has more charms for me than liberty. The interest I take in all that concerns you makes me feel your misfortunes as if they were my own." "Is it possible," exclaimed the Duke, "that, in spite of the ill treatment you received from me in Sicily, you can still have the same zeal and fidelity you

then had for me? You make me blush for my injustice. To repair these wrongs, I make you my confidant, Thomas being no longer in a state to fill that place. You," said he, speaking to Quivillo, "return to Madrid, and inform Donna Catherina you have brought me a man who will soothe my sorrows."

Quivillo went away well satisfied with the reception I met with; and I remained alone with the Duke, who was dressed in the Hungarian style, and seated in an arm-chair, with his mind occupied disagreeably enough with the prospects before him. "Estevanille," said he to me, "sit down, and relate to me all you have done since you left Sicily. I do not doubt but you have met with some pleasant adventures." "The most pleasant," said I, "is, that I ran the risk of being burnt for sorcery, in the last procession of the Holy Office." "Ha! Gonzalez," exclaimed his Excellency, "what do you say, my friend? You cannot speak seriously." "Pardon me," said I; "in the last Act of Faith I was one of the

unhappy ones destined to carry the *Samarra* of linen, upon which are painted flames and demons ; and my head was threatened to be ornamented with a *Carocha*. In short, I have had a narrow escape." " I am not a little curious," said the Duke, " to know how you have escaped out of the hands of the Holy Inquisition ; whose dungeons I look upon as a sort of hell, never to be opened."

For fear of fatiguing the Duke, I made a short recital of this adventure : but he would have a more circumstantial one ; which obliged me to extend my narration, and go back into Italy. I began with giving him a detail, how I became assistant to the apothecary ; of my attachment to Violetta, daughter of my master-Potoschi ; and how, when I was on the point of marrying her, I found she had a more favoured lover than myself ; and of my leaving Palermo, and embarking for Leghorn.

The Viceroy smiled at this beginning ; and, not doubting I should have many pleasant things to relate, he ordered me to

continue my recital. This I did with so much vivacity, that his Excellency, grave and serious as he was, could not forbear laughing from time to time. There were many parts in my narrative which diverted him exceedingly; particularly when I spoke of my pomatum and wash, and the marvellous effects they produced. At last, the Duke, believing I only romanced, to make him laugh, interrupted me: "Gonzalez," said he, "you exaggerate the virtues of your composition: they may be able to hide a freckle, give a colour, and whiten the skin; that is all they can do: they can never give the appearance of youth to faces wrinkled with old age?" "Pardon me, my lord," said I; "they reproduce lost charms; they make complete metamorphoses. Your Excellency will no longer doubt me," said I, smiling, "when I tell you, that your Baroness of Conca was made up with them, as well as Donna Blanche her mother, whom Thomas found so delightful." "How do you know this?" said the Viceroy. "Potoschi," I replied, "the inventor of this pomatum and wash, furnished these two ladies with

them ; and he told me, more than once, that the Baroness, young as she was, owed less to nature than to this composition, in the conquest she made of your Excellency."

These last words made the Duke blush ; who appeared to feel ashamed, that, in the Baroness, he had only loved a made-up beauty. He felt his vanity wounded ; but, as I was the only witness to this little mortification, he affected to be the first to laugh, as if the thing did not hurt him. He afterwards said, "Gonzalez, if you really possess such a secret, you will soon become rich." "I should have been so already," said I, "if the Inquisition had let me alone. Unhappily for me, the envious informed against me to this holy tribunal, as a chemist who had recourse to magic to make his works take effect ; and upon this denunciation I was arrested, by order of the Holy Office."

Not content with this description, I gave the Duke a most accurate and minute detail of every circumstance, not omitting the most trivial occurrence ; and you may

suppose I did not omit the confiscation of my property. Upon this, the Duke fell into fits of laughter, which lasted till the Duchess of Ossuna and Don Juan Telles his son, who were accustomed to come almost every day to the castle, appeared suddenly before us. "Madam," said his Excellency to Donna Catherina, "you are, without doubt, astonished to see me laughing, when no change has happened in my affairs to make me gay; but I could not resist it, on hearing of a curious adventure Estevanille has been telling me." "I am delighted," said the Duchess, "that you have got him about you, as he has the art of amusing you. I am the more pleased, as both Quivillo and Thomas have assured me he has always had a real attachment to you." "I know it well," said the Viceroy; "and I reckon much upon his zeal and affection. I like his humour, which accords with mine; and I foresee his gaiety of mind will prevent my abandoning myself to vexatious reflections."

Donna Catherina, who had something particular to say to her husband, drew him



to the window ; and whilst they were talking, Don Juan exhorted me to enliven the Duke, and lessen his troubles, as much as possible ; assuring me that his father would well recompense the service, when he was out of prison ; which, according to all appearances, would be ere long. The Duchess, before she returned to the carriage, said the same things to me ; so that I had good reason to be satisfied that I had shut myself up in the castle, for which I had great hopes of being soon amply rewarded.

When the Duchess and Don Juan were gone, the Viceroy seated himself in his arm-chair ; saying to me, “ Go on, Gonzalez ; take up the thread of your history, and tell me by what good fortune you escaped the claws of the Inquisition : that seems to me a sort of miracle.” I told him I owed my deliverance to the Duke of Olivarez ; and related why the Prime Minister had undertaken my defence.

The Duke in this place sighed bitterly, and said, with a mournful voice, “ You have

just mentioned a man who plays the first part in the theatre of the Spanish monarchy: he has found out the secret of making the King obey his will. Never had the Duke of Lerma such an ascendancy over Philip the Third. I have the misfortune to have him for an enemy, as well as the Count of Benevent. These two noblemen are at the head of those who attempt my ruin. Had it not been for these two envious, rancorous spirits, I should long since have been free; or, rather, I never should have been in confinement. Instead of instituting inquiries into my conduct, to criminate me, they would have raised a statue to perpetuate the services I have rendered the Crown. But these two jealous souls, envious of my glory, have spared nothing to bring me to the scaffold; and, fearing the use I might make of my liberty, they unite together to eternize my confinement."

As I found, from this melancholy strain, that the Duke was relapsing into despondency, I made a quick transition to the

Inquisition ; and, by some happy sallies that escaped me, I revived the drooping spirits of his Excellency, and brought a more pleasing train of ideas into his mind. I asked him if he did not think it amusing that they should take me for a sorcerer, because I knew how to compose a beautifying pomatum for the ladies. “ Yes,” said he ; “ but, after all,” (with a tone of rail- lery,) “ perhaps you lie a little. I will be- lieve it, I must confess, if it be true that my Italian Baroness had need of the help of Potoschi to be what she appeared in my eyes ; for, in short, there was not a woman in the world whose complexion appeared to me more natural than hers : so,” said he, smiling, “ you may think yourself very happy to have escaped being burnt alive.” “ Yes, my lord,” said I, with archness, “ I as much deserved this punishment from the Inquisi- tion, as I merited my punishment at Palermo, when I was accused of being a poisoner. Pardon, my lord, this little reproach.” “ Ah, my dear Estevanille !” said the Duke ; “ upon that subject, forget, in mercy, my in-

justice. Excuse a lover, overwhelmed with suspicions and grief. Let that fatal event remain for ever buried in oblivion."

This good nobleman pronounced these words with so much feeling, that I was affected. There was something heart-piercing in the tone of his voice. I saw him before me with a dejected, broken-hearted countenance. I felt I had given a blow to a fallen man: I thought myself a brute. It is true, he had been the cause of my suffering unjust imprisonment; and he treated me with severity: but how was the scene now changed! He was unjustly imprisoned, and falsely accused! How fallen from the height of grandeur in which I saw him at Palermo! I was now conferring an obligation upon him, in being his attendant. I felt it my duty to comfort him; 'for woe be to him who increases the pains and misfortunes of his fellow-creatures!' Let hell increase its torments for them! say I. And the hell within the bosoms of those beings, lost to the best feelings of humanity, so strongly impressed upon us also by the

doctrines of Christianity, will ever prevent their enjoying happiness in this life.

How easy is it for a man of quality to obliterate the remembrance of an offence done to a private man! I was so charmed to find his Excellency repent of having dealt unkindly by me in Sicily, that I felt myself more strongly attached to him than ever. In short, his greatness affected me so much, I felt tears start into my eyes. He perceived it, and was melted in his turn: so natural is it to be sensible to the pleasure of seeing one's-self beloved. "Go, Gonzalez," said he: "what is to come shall make amends for what is past. If I have given you reason to complain of me, I will, in return, treat you henceforth in a manner that shall only merit your praise." These words effectually bound me to the Duke of Ossuna, who appeared to me, at that moment, the most amiable of noblemen, past, present, and to come. I could not help shewing my joy; and, yielding to the transports that agitated me, I threw myself at his Excellency's feet.

and embraced his knees ; which he allowed me to do, without being offended with my freedom.

A small clock now struck, which announced the hour of dinner ; and a few minutes after, the Duke's steward came to say dinner was ready. His Excellency, therefore, rose from his arm-chair, and passed into another room, where he seated himself alone at table. Immediately I saw eight or ten people enter the room : these were a party of his equerries and gentlemen, who, during dinner, stood around, bare-headed, near their master, waiting, in respectful silence, the orders he had to give them. But he spoke to no one but me ; and the answers I made to all he said had the good fortune to please him. This was not observed without jealousy by the officers, who looked upon me as a man that would undoubtedly become a favourite with the Viceroy.

After dinner, his Excellency returned to his room, to take his *siesta* ; and I, mixing

with the gentlemen, went down stairs with them into a large room, where there was an excellent dinner ready for us. We should not have had such good cheer, if we had dined at the King's expense; for although the state-prisoners are commonly fed and supported by his Majesty, the expenses of the Duke of Ossuna were defrayed by himself. This was another trait of malice in his enemies. They had decided in the Council, as a malicious distinction, that they would allow him to live at whatever expense he pleased in prison; it being just that a rich and magnificent Viceroy should have the liberty to live in a manner suitable to his dignity.

When we had dined, the steward expressed a wish to speak to me; and, taking me into a gallery apart, he said, "Señor Gonzalez, let us renew our acquaintance; you do not seem to recollect me: I was, however, in Sicily, and in the service of my lord, at the time you were one of his pages. It is true, I did not then hold a first-rate situation in the house; and the humble post

I then occupied will hardly help to bring me to mind. In time I was promoted to a higher place; and getting on, year after year, by the recommendation of my sister, who is one of the Duchess's favourite housemaids, I am at length become steward." "Thus goes the world," said I; "and I congratulate you on holding so good a situation. I ask for your friendship." "It is for me to ask yours," said he; "for I see plainly, that if you are not so already, you will soon become Hephæstion to our master." "Oh! as to that," said I, "between ourselves, I have the good fortune to be favourably regarded by him; and if you ever have need of my good offices with his Excellency, I offer them to you with all my heart."

I pronounced these words with a little air of importance, which made me perhaps pass for a coxcomb in the opinion of the steward; but, far from shewing it, he appeared delighted to find me so well disposed towards him: this formed between us, from that day forward, a sort of connexion,



which, though devoid of feeling, had somewhat the appearance of friendship. Besides this, the steward had one good quality; he was much attached to his master, and wished for nothing more than to amuse him; but his mind was too uncultivated to invent amusement. He therefore said to me, "Señor Gonzalez, what means can we take to divert my lord, and relieve his mind from cares? You have more invention than we have. Think, therefore, what will be best to turn his mind from brooding continually on uncomfortable reflections?" "I am at a loss," replied I; "however, we must not give him up to melancholy: let us divert him, if possible. Stop, I have an idea just come into my head, that must not be rejected. He loves plays: let us act one before him." The steward, on this, began to laugh. "I should much approve your thought," said he, "if we had persons amongst us capable of acting theatrical pieces; but out of the thirty servants now in the castle, I do not know one who appears to me to have talents for that business." "So much

the better," I observed; "those are just the actors for us: if they were excellent, they would fix the attention of his Grace; whereas the thoroughly bad will divert him infinitely; because the more ridiculous the execution of such a sight, the more there will be to laugh at. Are you willing we should make the trial?" "Most willing," said the steward: "I will take upon myself to bring here to-morrow, from Madrid, a volume of excellent Comedies; and we will chuse the one we think most proper to afford ~~my~~ lord amusement."

At this part of our conversation, I heard myself called by a page, who came to look for me, to say that his Excellency had finished his *siesta*, and inquired for me. I ran immediately to his apartment, to receive his orders. "Gonzalez," said he to me, "I want you to dissipate the melancholy humour just come upon me, from a disagreeable dream; or rather, I should say, a fatal dream, that I have had. You will tell me that dreams are only sports of sleep, to which we should attach no importance.

I know it well ; but however I may expose my weakness and credulity, I cannot help thinking that mine is mysterious, and contains something of celestial warning."

" Oh ! my lord," said I, " what dream can make so strong an impression upon a mind tempered like yours ? I am astonished."

" You shall hear," he replied : " I dreamt I was in a room, where Benevent and Olivares all at once appeared before me : they both approached me with a sweet smiling air, and each wished to embrace me, in emulation of the other ; after which they made me go into a garden filled with thistles, nettles, brambles, and thorns : but my two enemies had no sooner got me in here, than they suddenly disappeared, and I found myself left alone. I vainly looked about for some means of getting out of this garden of horrors ; and in my agitation, I awoke.

" Well, my friend," said the Viceroy, " what do you think of my dream ? For my own part, I think it bodes no good. I will tell you how I interpret it : the

embraces I received from my enemies shew that they are preparing some new mortification for me; and the fruitless efforts I made to get out of the frightful garden, where I found myself shut up, presages to me that my imprisonment will be perpetual." "Ah! my lord," exclaimed I, in agony, "what an interpretation! Why, too ingenious in thus tormenting yourself, do you explain to your disadvantage such confused thoughts, engendered during sleep? You are somewhat like a state-prisoner who was not long since in the Alcazar of Segovia, who, trusting too much to his own conceits, became the victim of them. I will relate this story to you, my lord, if you please." "You will give me pleasure by it," said the Duke. "I do not doubt it," returned I; "for it is singular."

"Don Guillem de Medina del Campo, a gentleman of the province of Leon, having been accused of holding intelligence with the rebels in Catalonia, was lately arrested, by order of the Court, and conducted to the Alcàzar at Segovia; which is built on

a very high rock, surrounded by the river. Here he was kept in close confinement: and whilst preparations were making for his trial, his wife and daughter went every day to the outskirts of the Alcazar, and stood opposite the window of the dungeon where he was confined, and where he could easily observe them. They constantly made signs and gestures to him, to give him hopes of a speedy and favourable termination. At last the trial was concluded, and the gentleman acquitted of the crime he had been accused of: his wife and daughter, on being informed of this, went directly, with all their servants, to shew themselves before the dungeon. The footmen took baskets, filled with cold victuals, and bread, and bottles of wine; as the ladies conceived that the appearance of a feast would assure the prisoner, who was watching for them, that the business had terminated in his favour. But the servants had scarcely laid the table-cloth upon the grass, to receive the collation, than the too sensitive imagination of the prisoner was immediately thrown into the most violent agitation:

instead of interpreting favourably the demonstrations of joy thus shewn by his family, he imagined that a fatal sentence had been pronounced against him. The table-cloth appeared to him to signify a winding-sheet: and giving himself up to despair, as a condemned man, he was thrown into agonies which terminated his life. What a sad reverse for his wife and daughter! Instead of receiving him, absolved from guilt, out of prison, they beheld him a lifeless corpse. The wife, unable to sustain the shock, was bereft of her senses; and no hopes are entertained of her recovery."

When I had finished this recital, the Duke sighed deeply. "This Don Guillem," said he, "certainly had a very dispirited imagination." "That of your Excellency is not less so," replied I; "and I certainly shall not chuse you for interpreter of my dreams. These two noblemen, whom you suppose still to be your enemies, may possibly be so no longer. Instead of continuing to defame you, they may repent at this moment ever having injured you."

“ You little know courtiers,” said the Viceroy: “ he assured that they will hate, as long as the object of their hatred exists. May you never feel the envy and rancour of a courtier ! I will own to you, however, that I may have put a wrong interpretation upon my dream. We shall find that by the event.” As I had perceived, before dinner, that my conversation had the good fortune not to displease the Duke, it made me bolder in speaking. I passed the rest of the day with him, relating some of my adventures, in the liveliest manner possible; not having forgot that his Grace loved a laughable story.

This evening, the Duke, while he was at supper, received a letter from Donna Catherina. He retired immediately from the table into his bed-room, to read it. We then went down into the room where we had dined; and after a good supper, we thought it adviseable to go to bed. Our beds were ranged round the room, somewhat in the manner of those I before described in the Royal Chamber.

On the following morning, the steward came to me with a volume of Comedies he had just received from Madrid, by our great author Lopez de Vega. We looked over the volume, and chose the famous Comedy of 'The Ambassador of Himself.' The subject of it, in a few words, is this: A young King of Leon wished to marry the Princess of Castile, whose charms he had heard much boasted of; and he formed the design of going to see her unknown. To effect this, he went to demand her in marriage, under the disguise of his own Ambassador; and obtained her, in spite of all the obstacles opposed to this marriage. "This will do very well," said I to the steward. "We must copy out the parts, and then cast the characters as we think best." "Now you talk of characters," said he, "I have two, who are just what you could wish for. As you only want to make his Grace laugh, my two originals will just answer the purpose. One is Gaspard Mozillero, our cook; and the other, Joseph de Magoz, surnamed, in our offices, the *Life of the Kitchen*; because



he is a complete buffoon, and has a thousand tricks to divert them with." "Good," said I; "he will do for comedy: so we have already two parts filled. But where can we get actresses, particularly one who can perform the part of the Princess of Castile?" "I already have her," said he; "it is one of our pages, a gawky lad, with a vacant face, lean as a greyhound, and has a pronunciation entirely effeminate: his name is Don Seraphim Floxo: we tell him that Nature has taken pleasure in forming him according to his name."

We lost no time in copying the parts of the play; and gave them to the actors, desiring them to get perfect as soon as possible. In eight days we were ready, although we were not blessed with the best of memories. We had determined not to let the Duke know of the entertainment we were preparing for him, in order to have the pleasure of surprising him: but my colleague was of a different opinion; and said he feared his Excellency would not consent that we should represent a comedy

before him, whilst he was in confinement: we ought, therefore, to ascertain this, before we went further. "I will go and ask my lord immediately," said I. At these words, I went to the apartment of his Excellency; who no sooner saw me appear, than a smile came on his countenance; and he said, "Tell me candidly, Gonzalez, Do not you find yourself melancholy in this castle?" "No, truly," I replied; "and I can assure your Grace that I never shall be melancholy, or discontented, while I serve a master like you: and you shall not be so, if our endeavours can amuse you. Don Gabriel and myself are preparing a few diversions, with which we propose to amuse your Excellency sometimes: for example, we are on the point of giving you one that we think will please your taste. This is the performance of a comedy." "Take good care," said the Duke, "what you are about: to receive a company of comedians into the castle, we must ask permission of the Governor; who is not my friend, and probably will refuse it." "Ah!" replied I, "it is not a company of professional comedians who

will perform this piece: we are getting it up amongst ourselves: it will be represented by actors selected from your own servants." "Oh, that is another affair," observed the Duke: "I believe I may attend such a representation, without any one having cause to find fault:—but," said he, shaking his head disdainfully, "I have some doubt about your jack-puddings." "You are mistaken, my lord," said I: "the greater part of them are excellent: the Prince has not better actors than some of ours: I am sure the 'performance of our comedy will please you." "On this assurance," said he, "I will no longer oppose your design: you shall play the piece whenever you please. I am ready to see it."

I returned with this answer to the steward, and the rest of our plan was soon settled. We divided the trouble between us: he was to clothe them according to his fancy, and I had to make them repeat their parts according to mine. There was something very entertaining to me in these

rehearsals ; for when an actor was declaiming abominably ill, or made a ridiculous gesture, I applauded him. " Good ! " said I, " keep to that ; do not forget that fine attitude : you will certainly charm the Duke." Independently of the piece being ill cast, every actor was so imperfect, that you heard the voice of the prompter every moment. This was, however, no obstacle to our performance ; for we were determined to play on the day we had mentioned.

An hour before we began, the Duchess of Ossuna and Don Juan arrived at the castle, with some other relations whom the Duke had invited to come and see the comedy, persuaded that the performance would not fail to be laughable enough. One of the pleasantest parts of the story is, that Don Gabriel had bought the performers' dresses of a broker ; and had not only chosen them of the most whimsical cut, but also unsuited to their figures ; so that the dresses alone were enough to excite merriment. I remember, amongst others, that the cook, Gaspard Mozillero,

represented the King of Leon; and no sooner appeared upon the stage, than he excited a general laugh, by the ridiculous fashion of his clothes: even the Viceroy lost his gravity. But if his Excellency could not keep his countenance at the grotesque figure of Don Gaspard, he found much more cause for laughter in his ridiculous gestures and actions. The Duke laughed so heartily, that the spectators, seeing him so enlivened, involuntarily followed his example.

Joseph de Magoz, 'the *Life of the Kitchen*, played the part of the confidant of the king; and he did not amuse the company less than his master. It is true, that this man needed only to be looked at to excite a laugh. He was a sort of dwarf, entirely deformed, adding much to the ridicule of the scene. And the great booby page, who acted the Princess of Castile, afforded no small amusement, by the affectation natural to him, and by the distortions of his countenance, which the good opinion he enjoyed of himself prevented his per-

ceiving the absurdity of. I must confess, that they fed his vanity in the most cruel manner, by applauding and clapping of hands, as is sometimes done in the Prince's theatre, when they are not satisfied with a performer, or author; and which he mistook for praise.

The audience, at last, grew tired of laughing at the performance, and were beginning to yawn, when the piece finished. "I must own, Sir," said the Duchess to her husband, "you have had a hearty laugh." "Madam," replied he, "I have been, indeed, much diverted; thanks to Gonzalez! who, judging like a sensible man, that a comedy performed by such actors could not fail to divert me, adopted this mode of effecting it." "I am charmed," said Donna Catherina, "that Gonzalez has talents to plan any thing which can divert you; and I entreat him to redouble his endeavours to drive from your mind those sorrowful thoughts which you are always brooding over." "He has not made a bad beginning," said the Duke; "and although he

has been but a short time with me, I already feel that he alleviates my trouble, though he cannot altogether deliver me from it." The Viceroy, in saying this, effectually gained me the Duchess's and Don Juan's good opinion; who, by continual marks of friendship, confirmed me in the hope of being well recompensed.

For three weeks I had the good fortune to amuse his Excellency, by the aid of the principal servants. We left no means untried to charm away his vexation; and, at first, we had the pleasure to find that we were successful in our endeavours. But our labours soon became vain: the gout, with which the Duke had always been tormented at intervals, now seized him with so much violence, that he became insensible to the pains we took to amuse him, and he abandoned himself entirely to the blackest melancholy: all that we could say or do, to dissipate his chagrin, was fruitless. When I found that no efforts would take effect, "My lord," said I, "we know not what Saint to

invoke; to draw your Excellency out of the mortal langour into which you are plunged. Can it be possible that your courage should fail you, at the moment, perhaps, of your liberation from prison. Recollect, my lord, that it does not become a hero to sink under misfortunes. If you suffer yourself to bend under the weight of yours, you will give your enemies the pleasure of seeing you overwhelmed. Will you give this triumph to their pride and hatred?"

"What would you have me do?" said the Duke: "so long as I hoped to get out of this castle, I armed myself with patience; but I have now lost that hope: and I plainly see the intention of the Court is to keep me here a prisoner for life." "No, no, my lord," said I, "give not way to such desponding thoughts. If it please Heaven, you will be set at liberty, and amply rewarded."

I was thus talking in the most consolatory way that my rhetoric and my zeal could dictate; when Don Juan Telles came into



the room. "Ah! Señor," said I, on seeing him, "you could not have come at a better time. Help me to dissipate the despair with which my dear master is assailed." At these words, which I spoke with feeling, for I really had a true attachment to the Viceroy, Don Juan asked me what fear had struck his father? "He believes," said I, "that they have for ever deprived him of liberty." Upon which, the young Telles said to the Duke, "Do not listen to the idle fears that agitate you, Sir; the news that I bring you to-day ought to banish them for ever. The Count Duke said this morning, at the King's levee, that he could not imagine how they could still keep you a prisoner, after the answers returned to the investigation of your conduct; which were not only proofs of innocence, but were evidence of important services rendered to the Crown of Spain." "The talk of a concealed enemy!" impatiently exclaimed the Duke. "If the prime-minister does not hate me, why does he not undertake to defend me, since I appear to him to be confined unjustly? No, my son; learn to

appreciate better the character of the Count Duke; and be convinced, that while he affects to pity me, the traitor is sorry that my judges have not found me deserving of death. In a word, I am certain of his hatred. I am detested by him, on account of the connexion that attaches me to the house of Sandoval. The friend of the Duke of Lerma can never be his."

When the Viceroy had become strongly possessed of an opinion, it was like stemming a tide to endeavour to counteract it. Don Juan knew this, and argued no longer: he contented himself with observing, that the prime-minister, in the favour he was with the King, and not seeing any one attempt to injure him, might, perhaps, be softened in time towards his Grace. "Pardon me," said the Duke; "he has many times, even in the King's presence, uttered some bitter raillery against me; and I have answered him so smartly, that he will never forget it." "However it be," said the young Telles, "for Heaven's sake, my father, do not give yourself up to chagrin.

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Instead of being cast down, and weakly giving yourself up to melancholy, which alarms us all, recall your firmness of mind : think what you have been : the interest of your family requires you to assume more resolution." These words, pronounced in a pathetic manner, by an affectionate son, seemed to make at first an impression on the Viceroy ; but still persuaded that his enemies would never allow his re-appearance at Court, he fell again into despondency, at the very moment that he seemed to resume his resolution.

Matters were still worse next day ; his Excellency, far from tranquillizing his mind by reflection, appeared still more agitated than the preceding day ; and to increase the misfortune, the gout made a violent attack upon him. He remained in a most languishing state for three weeks ; at the end of which time, as he walked one evening to his room, leaning on me with one arm, and the other on a crutch, he fell down in an apoplexy. I immediately called for assistance, and, with the help of two servants,

laid him on his bed, where he remained three hours totally insensible. Whilst he was in this pitiable state, one of the servants went at full speed to Madrid, to inform Donna Catherina and her son of the circumstance; who set off in haste to the castle, accompanied by two physicians, who came rather to witness the death of the Duke, than to save his life: they did not omit, however, to make use of every endeavour to save him; and even ordered some remedies, which only accelerated his death. He died two days after, in the arms of his wife and son.

As soon as the Governor of the Castle was informed of the death of his prisoner, he carried the news to the prime-minister, who went immediately to communicate the intelligence to the King. It is said, that his Majesty appeared a little affected, as well as the prime-minister; but I do not affirm it as a certain fact. However that may be, the monarch sent a grandee of the first distinction to the Duchess of Ossuna, to make his compliments of condolence;

with orders to say, that he would give the Viceroyalty of Sicily to Don Juan Telles, to recompense in him the services of his father. If this did not entirely console the mother and son, it was, at least, a great alleviation of their grief.

The Duke was interred without pomp, and in the manner he had often said to the Duchess he wished to be buried ; that is to say, in the dress of an Augustine friar. Many tears were shed at his funeral ; and all the servants, supposing he died intestate, wept bitterly. As for myself, though unfeignedly grieved at the loss of a master I really loved, yet I felt some kind of regret that I had shut myself up in prison with him. “ He has made great promises,” said I ; “ but now they are no more than wind.” In short, we were all depressed, and expected no more than our wages ; when we learnt that the Duke, a month before his death, as if he felt a presage he should die in the castle of Almeda, had made a codicil to his will ; in which, far from forgetting his servants, he left them all handsome lega-

cies, proportioned to the different situations which they held in his service.

Some days after the obsequies of our master, Donna Catherina assembled us together; and, having ordered the secretary to read the codicil, she said to us, "When you wish for your legacies, my treasurer will pay them. That is not all, my children," she added; "if any of you wish to return to Sicily with the new Viceroy, he will give you the same wages his father did." The Duchess had no sooner mentioned this, than the greater part of the servants said they wished for nothing so much as to return to Sicily, and continue with Don Juan: others, preferring to remain in their own country to a residence in Sicily, declared for continuing in Spain.

As I was one of the number who had no wish to revisit Palermo, Donna Catherina was much surprised. "Gonzalez," said she to me, "I had supposed that *you* would not refuse to promise the same attachment to



my son that you had for his father ; but you seem indifferent to us, and are little disposed to make this voyage to Sicily." " Madam," replied I, " Sicily is a country that is odious to me, after the chagrins I met with there. However, notwithstanding the cause I have to hate it, I would willingly return, if I were persuaded my services would be as agreeable to the new Viceroy as they were to his predecessor." " That is what you need not doubt," said the lady ; " my son loves you ; he looks upon you as a servant born in our house : and you shall be the head of the household, the one in whom he reposes the most perfect confidence." The Duchess had no occasion to say more, to form me to her wishes ; and Don Juan, who now entered, having joined in our conversation, confirmed what his mother had said. He added, " that he would take me for his first valet-de-chambre, his confidant, his Thomas." This appeared to me so very good a situation, with a Viceroy young and gay, that I could not hesitate in accepting it.

The envy and hatred which the merit of the Duke of Ossuna had given birth to ended with his life. He had no longer any enemies. The Court and the city applauded the marks of esteem and friendship which the King had conferred on Don Juan, on his coming to the title of Duke of Ossuna, when he was put in possession of every thing that had been seized by the King from his father.

Our new Viceroy was so impatient to set off to Palermo, that he took leave of his Majesty as soon as he was informed that six galleys were waiting at Barcelona to transport him to Sicily. He set out from Madrid with Donna Isabella, his wife, after tenderly embracing Donna Catherina, his mother, who did not think it prudent to go from Court, but chose rather to remain there, and watch over the interest of her darling son. She also kept with her old Thomas, whom she knew to be a trusty man, and whose gout rendered him unfit to follow the new Viceroy. For my own part, I should

have been delighted to make this voyage with my friend Quivillo ; but my unlucky stars would not permit me to have that pleasure : I fell sick the day before I was to set out. I was suddenly taken ill of a violent fever, which increased so rapidly, that it was expected I should not recover. A physician was immediately called in, who, although he was under thirty, had already killed more patients than Hippocrates. This Doctor, after having attentively considered my disorder for some minutes, said he would give me powder of frogs' gall, with wheat ; alleging that, according to Pliny, it was an infallible remedy for all sorts of fevers. Although I was not convinced of the infallibility of this specific, I did not fail to swallow it upon the guarantee of Pliny. But this draught had no sooner reached my stomach, than it caused such convulsive motions, that the physician thought there was no occasion to make me take a second dose. Such was the violent effect of the medicine, that I lay insensible for three days ; and, whilst I remained in this state, the

physician, apothecary, and surgeon, could do with me what they chose : I could not contradict them. However, I escaped out of their hands, by the greatest good luck in the world.

Donna Catherina, during my illness, was so kind as to ask after me every day. She did me the honour once to come and see me ; and when I was recovered, Thomas brought me from her a present of a hundred doubloons. “ Behold,” said he, “ what the Duchess sends you, to enable you to make the voyage to Sicily with comfort ; for she supposes you still in the mind to follow her son to Palermo. “ It is my dearest hope,” said I : “ but tell me, Mr. Thomas,” I added with a smile, “ is the new Viceroy of Sicily as fond of gallantry as his predecessor ? ” “ Quite as much, if not more so,” said Thomas. “ The Girons are addicted to the sacrifices of love, and fly from one beauty to another. Charming as Donna Isabella is, she does not fix his wandering heart. Go, go,” said he, (laughing in his

turn,) “ you will, on my word, have your hands full enough.”

As soon as I found myself sufficiently established in health, I prepared for my journey, and set out for Barcelona. I determined to travel at my leisure, and go by way of Saragoza, to inquire after Donna Anna, the widow of my first master, Don Christoval, who lived with her father from the time she became a widow. I felt some regret on bidding adieu to Madrid; and turned about, at some distance, to take a last farewell of it. The road to Saragoza is one of the finest and most spacious about the city, and the views from it are beautiful beyond description. Its gate is very elegant. On the left is the garden of the palace Buen Retiro, with the Botanical Garden, and the extensive alleys of the Prado, regularly planted, and adorned with numerous fountains. On the right, through the trees, we catch a glimpse of another gate; whilst the wide street of Alcala, stretching gracefully in front, bending in the line of beauty,

contracts as it advances up a gentle hill ; thus discovering, at one view, some of the most considerable of the public buildings, and the habitations either of the first nobility, or of the foreign ministers. Madrid contains sixty-six convents, sixteen colleges, eighteen hospitals, five prisons, and fifteen gates, built of granite, and most of them elegant. The city of Madrid is allowed by strangers to be extremely beautiful ; but to the eye of a Spaniard it is the finest city in the world.

Six leagues from the capital is Alcala, between which and Madrid there are three rivers, the Henares, the Jarama, and the Manzanares, which diffuse their fertilizing streams over a vast expanse of level country, and supply the capital and other considerable cities with delicious water. Guadalajara, four leagues farther, stands in a fertile vale, where plenty seems to have established her dominion, and is constantly replenishing her horn with corn, wine, and oil. Thence to the village of Maranchon there is nothing remarkable ; but this place must not be

passed over in silence ; for it is a favourite haunt of the Muses. Maranchon, remarkable, like other villages around it, for the poetic fire of its inhabitants, is a little village situated on a declivity, sheltered from the north by high rocks, but open to the south, and facing the rich valley by which it is fed : here would be a delightful situation for a nobleman's seat ; wood, water, with corn, wine, and oil, being in great abundance. Before you begin to descend to Daroca, you are on the highest land in Spain ; the water on the fore part falling into the Ebro, whilst, immediately behind, it runs into the Tagus. The wine of this country is of the finest quality.

Daroca is built in a ravine ; and would have been swept away by torrents, had not the inhabitants made a tunnel six hundred yards long, through the heart of a mountain, to open a communication with the river : this place has always been of importance, as its fortifications evince : it formerly occupied the hills ; for safety, it has now crept down into the vale for shelter.

Climbing amongst the hills, it is delightful to look down on the vale, which feeds the city, shut in by uncultivated mountains on all sides, itself well watered, covered with deep verdure, and loaded with the most luxuriant crops. The exquisite beauty of this spot has proved a powerful attraction to the priests ; as no less than six convents are established here.

Fifty-two leagues from Madrid, and fifty from Barcelona, is Saragoza. Whatever a traveller may suffer coming here, whatever be his hardships and fatigue, even were the journey performed barefoot, he will cease to murmur, when he beholds the cathedrals. That which is called *El Asoa* is vast, gloomy, and magnificent : it excites devotion, inspires awe, and inclines the worshipper to fall prostrate and adore in silence the God who here seems to veil his glory. The other, called *El Pilar*, spacious, lofty, light, elegant, and cheerful, inspires hope, confidence, complacency ; and makes the soul impatient to express its gratitude for benefits received. The wealth of this Cathedral



is incalculable, in silver, gold, precious stones, and rich embroidery, sent by all the Catholic sovereigns of Europe, to deck its priests, and adorn its altars. Whatever wealth could command, or human art execute, has been here collected, to excite the admiration of all who view the treasures of this cathedral. The bridge over the Ebro is hardly inferior in magnificence to the cathedrals : it is six hundred feet in length ; the centre arch is an hundred feet. This city contains thirty-nine convents : the university has nearly two thousand students ; and the number of professors commonly resident is a hundred and twenty-one. Near this city passes the famous canal of Arragon, designed to form a communication by the Ebro from sea to sea ; between St. Andero in the Bay of Biscay, and Tortosa on the shores of the Mediterranean ; a space of more than a hundred Spanish leagues.

As I was preparing to go to the Governor's house, my mind seemed to revolt at the idea. The first time I went was with my

young master, Don Christoval de Gaviria : he was then in the prime of life, health, and vigour ; going with joy to receive an amiable and accomplished bride, every way deserving of such a husband. How short was their sum of bliss ! every thing seemed to promise the most perfect happiness when they married : nothing was wanting ; and, whilst he lived, their felicity, except during his short absence on the death of Don Melchior de Rida, was unbounded. But how soon was he cut off, in the flower of his days ! He was a kind master to me, and I sincerely loved him. My wish was now to see Donna Anna, and hear of her welfare ; but I could scarcely muster sufficient resolution to go to the Governor's. As Donna Anna retained some of the bishop's servants, I determined to try and find them out : accordingly, it was not long before I saw Mansano ; he recognised me at once, and ran to embrace me. " Ah ! Gonzalez," said he, " how are the times changed since first we met here ! " " Tell me," said I, " does Donna Anna live ? " " She lives," he said, " if it can be called life when the

mind is gone. She bore her loss with the greatest apparent heroism at first; but it was not long before it was evident her mind had been too highly wrought up, and was fast sinking: she is in a state of mental derangement, of the most heart-piercing kind; silent, melancholy, bereft of every enjoyment in this life. The only consolation the poor old Count, her father, feels, is, that it was the will of Heaven. Had he forced her into a hated marriage, and caused her being in this unhappy state, his grief would have known no bounds. You must not see either of them: it would only cause unavailing regret on all sides. Spend the evening with us: we will make you welcome."

I determined to set forward next morning to Barcelona. The first place of note on the way is Lerida, a handsome little city, with a cathedral, and sixteen convents. It is situated on the Segre, under cover of a hill, on which are seen the ruins of a castle, now going to decay: its situation is delightful; and the country wherein it stands

is one continued garden, covered with corn, olive-trees, and vines. For beauty, few places can exceed it; but, from the abundance of water around, it is far from healthy. Martorel, five leagues from Barcelona, is famous for Hannibal's bridge, with its triumphal arch. The road, for the rest of the way, is by the banks of the Lobregat: Barcelona should be entered in the evening, to see the sun sinking behind the Monjuet; ships of all kinds entering the port, and the shore animated with bustle and interesting objects. The fishermen drag their boats upon the sands, with a loud cry; and at night innumerable lights are seen: the moon rises majestically above the sea; the roar of the shining waves is more distinctly heard; the number of people walking increases; and from the houses, which are lighted, and open on all sides, the sound of instruments of music, with all the cheerfulness of the dance, are heard on every side. This tumult, contrasted with the calmness of the sea, with her waves tranquilly sinking to rest, awakens in the mind sensations of

sublimity, which it is in vain to attempt to describe.

I met with a traveller on the road, who joined me, and would take me to his favourite inn. He led me, by the gate of St. Anthony, to the new city; and we alighted at the sign of the Phoenix, which appeared to me a very respectable-looking house. "I have brought you here," said he, "in preference to all others, for two reasons:—you will have a good room, a good bed, and very good entertainment; and (what is not unimportant) you will find in your hostess a young charming widow, very good-humoured, and, what is still better, very sensible." "So much the worse," said I, in a joking way; "her wisdom is too much for a traveller who is going away, and has not time to stop and make love to her; for if to-morrow I find an opportunity of embarking for Italy, I shall not fail to take advantage of it."

As I finished speaking these words, the hostess presented herself before me.

“There she is,” said my companion; “does she not deserve to have a guest of your importance? examine her figure well.” I must own I was struck with her beauty, and the easy genteel manner with which she addressed us. She conducted me herself to the room she destined for me, and shewed the greatest civilities. This I attributed to the care my companion had taken, at our first entrance, to let her know I was one of the principal officers of the Duke of Ossuna, the new Viceroy of Sicily. On my side, in order to pay her that tribute which all gallant men think due to a handsome woman, I said a hundred obliging things; which she answered with much point. With the greatest modesty in the world, we got insensibly into a long conversation; which convinced me, that, beautiful as she was in her person, she had a mind much superior to her personal attractions.

She retired after this conversation, and left me with my companion, who asked me what I thought of such a widow? “I

know not how to speak enough in her praise," said I: "in what part of Spain was she born? she does honour to her country: I am convinced she must be of good family." "I don't know any thing of her relations," said he; "I only know that she is a native of the city of Murcia, capital of the province of that name." At these words, I felt my heart beat, and experienced an agitation which I could not account for. "Now, if this should be my sister!" said I to myself: "it is possible that this young widow may be my sister Inesilla! if so, the adventure will be pleasant enough:—it may be, but still I cannot suppose it. However, I will sound her upon it this evening, if I can."—"My friend," said I to my fellow-traveller, "I was born in the city of Murcia, and I am anxious to ask the hostess some questions about her family; whom I ought to know, at least if they are not of low extraction, which I cannot suppose. Do me the favour to go and find her; tell her I am one of her countrymen, and wish to have some conversation

with her, about the place in which we were born."

My companion went out forthwith, and returned in a moment. — "Señor cavalier," said he, "you will soon have the satisfaction you desire. Your hostess will be here presently. I had no sooner said you were of her country, and wished to converse with her, than she seemed quite rejoiced. She is now coming: I will leave you together, that your conversation may be more unreserved." So saying, he left the room; and the hostess, who lost no time in answering the summons, entered.

"Madam," said I, "having just learnt that you were born in the same city where I first saw the day, I wish much to have a little conversation with you concerning my country, and to take the liberty of asking you respecting your connections. It is not idle curiosity; I have a secret reason which makes me wish to ask this question. Pray tell me who were your parents?" "Señor



cavalier," said she, " I am not of a noble family of Murcia ; but still I do not spring from the dregs of the people. My father, whom I lost in my earliest infancy, was a Doctor of Physic, of the university of Alcala."—" Ha ! and what was his name ?" returned I, hastily, and with great emotion. " He was called Doctor Estevanille Gonzalez, replied" the widow : " but," said she, observing my emotion, " what agitates you so much ? it seems as if you took some interest in what I am relating. Did you know my father ?" — " Perfectly," said I ; " and his son also ; for I think he had one, whose name was Estevanille, if I am not mistaken." " You are not mistaken," said she ; " Estevanille is the name of my poor brother. But, alas ! poor young man ! he went one morning secretly out of Murcia, and from that time to this I have never heard one word of him."

In saying these words, her feelings overcame her, and her eyes swam with tears. Charmed to see so much affection in my

sister, I could not help following her example, and shed abundant tears. Surprised at seeing me so strangely affected; "You weep!" she exclaimed. "Ah, Señor! you are my brother! your sensibility discovers you. It is Estevanille who is before my eyes: for Heaven's sake, acknowledge it instantly! every moment of silence retards the happiness of my life!"—"Well then, my sister," said I, affected with her sensibility, "it is your brother Estevanille you see before you." In pronouncing these words, I opened my arms, and we held each other in close embrace for at least a quarter of an hour, without being able to express the mutual joy we felt at meeting again.

After having given this tender silence to the rights of blood, we began to demand from each other a faithful account of all that had happened to us since we quitted our country. "I will freely, my dear Inesilla," said I to my sister, "relate to you the good and bad adventures of my life, on condition that you relate yours with

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the same sincerity." "I consent," she said : "but as we have on both sides much to say, I must advise that we defer till to-morrow our reciprocal communications : for the supper hour is approaching, and you are undoubtedly in want of rest."

In fact, I was so much fatigued with my journey, that I felt no repugnance in deferring our conversation till next day. I supped, and went to bed immediately, sleeping most soundly till nine in the morning ; when, getting up, I felt myself fresh and gay, and hastened to dress myself and join my sister, whose history I was very impatient to learn, and who was not less anxious to hear mine. She was inquisitive to learn the state of my affairs, and I the circumstances of her elevation, which my uncle knew nothing of.

As I came out of my room, Inesilla was ready to join me ; saying, "I have got the start of you, and am come to keep you to your word." "I am quite ready," an-

swered I; "so take a chair, my dear sister, and listen to me." We both sat down, and without loss of time I related my exploits, not without a few occasional flourishes, sometimes not without truth. This I did with the less scruple, as I was persuaded my sister would not fail, in her turn, to do the same, although each had promised to be quite sincere. In a history such as mine, there are always passages that require softening, and where the hero is obliged to lie, to do himself credit. I imitated the painters, who, to temper the harshness of their colours, give them a softer tint. Thus, when it happened, for example, that I made mention of my uncle's will in my favour, the reader will not suppose I was such a fool as to own ingenuously to my sister that I had made no opposition to his injustice to her, but rather inflamed his anger. Oh no! I managed that part very adroitly, and with much delicacy. "My dear sister," said I, with an affectionate air, "you cannot imagine how much I was mortified when I found you were not mentioned in

his will. Sole heir as I was to Master Damien, I less respected his memory for having forgotten you; and, by way of revenge, I determined to divide with you his inheritance."

My sister interrupted me in this part. "Oh too generous heart!" she exclaimed, embracing me, "what an happiness it is to have such a brother." "Inesilla," said I, interrupting her raptures, "instead of rejoicing that you have me for a brother, you should rather complain of it to Heaven. Alas! the riches I inherited, and the half of which was destined to you, are no longer in my hands. If you will let me finish my history, you shall learn what is become of them."

These words a little stunned the co-heiress; who, supposing the fortune of my uncle was all spent, seemed inwardly hurt, as I supposed, at her own loss. But I did yet not know my sister. As soon as I had finished my history, she said, "Brother,

I am sorry you got entangled in the Inquisition ; since you lost your fortune, which was sð ample. Do not think, however, that I grieve for myself : on the contrary, it is your loss that alone afflicts me ; for I am, thank Heaven ! very well off in the world ; even so well off as to make you a proposal, which I conjure you not to refuse. Remain with me ; let us join our fortunes together : give up your intended voyage to Italy ; it may, probably, turn out no more fortunate for you than the former.—What did the old Duke of Ossuna do for you ? nothing ; and perhaps you will not fare better with his son. You should always distrust these great lords ; for where we find one who well rewards his servants, there are thirty others who only pay them with ingratitude. In short, my brother, since Providence has brought us together, let us not separate. Barcelona is a place where a man may live very pleasantly ; and I assure you, you shall not want money.” “ Why, sister,” said I, laughing at her last expression, “ you give me a great idea of your strong box ; and you excite my curiosity to know in what



manner you have enriched yourself." "Your curiosity is natural," said Inesilla; "and I will satisfy it directly, as I have promised you, with all the sincerity you can wish." So saying, Inesilla performed it in the following words.

## INESILLA'S TALE.

YOU will recollect, that, soon after the death of Doctor Gonzalez, our father, you and I were separated. Master Damien, your uncle, took you as a pupil in the grand art of surgery, in which he was thoroughly versed ; and I, who had not quite attained my sixth year, was taken to the castle of Cantarilla, to be brought up by my godfather, who was the owner of it, and by my god-mother, who had lived with him ever since she was ten years old, in an union that had the appearance, but wanted the sanction, of marriage. They both undertook the care of my education ; and bestowed great pains on their god-daughter, who appeared to them to do credit to the attention they paid her.

Don Isidore de Cantarilla, my godfather, had not the satisfaction of seeing me arrive at maturity: he died, and left my godmother and myself unprotected. We both wept abundantly; one for form's sake, and the other from affection. Scarcely was the breath out of the body of the deceased, when the hungry heirs came to seize the castle; and the first thing they did was to drive out, without ceremony, his *chere amie*, without the least attention to the tears she shed. But they had some pity for me: my tender age, and my little figure, which increased in beauty every day, softened them a little. They consulted together what they should do with me; and I well remember amongst them an aunt of the deceased, an old devotee, who recommended that the heirs should join together to give me a maintenance, till I was old enough to work for my bread. This was unanimously rejected; the heirs not being disposed to support me at their own expense. They thought it best to give me up to my godmother, who loved me with the tenderness of a parent, and offered to take charge of me. The old

aunt took much pains to convince them of the danger of putting me into the hands of a person of my godmother's character : but they paid no attention to her remonstrance ; and, without troubling themselves with what might happen to me, they consigned me to my affectionate godmother, who took me to a farm house in the neighbourhood of Alicant, whither she retired ; the farmer being an old labourer of her father's.

This villager, whose name was Talego, gave her a most welcome reception. He was one of those kind-hearted beings, who loves every one connected to them by blood ; and he had always been particularly affectionate to Señora Barberina, my godmother, who soon became mistress of the house. Talego having a blind complaisance for her, and living without wife or child, Barberina managed every thing without contradiction. As the farm was at the gates of Alicant, she went every day into the city, where she soon made acquaintance. She became very intimate with the widow of an Alguazil ; and they found their dispositions so much alike,

that in eight days they became the dearest of friends. This widow, whose name was Alzine, was about forty years old : she had been handsome ; and still retained sufficient beauty to inspire a transitory passion.

Meanwhile I proceeded in growth and improvement, and began to look like a marriageable girl. Barberina, who had no intention of keeping me from the eyes of men, thought it was time to accustom me to the sight of the world, and began to take me with her into the city. The very first time I went there, I attracted the notice of more than one cavalier ; and I remarked, inexperienced as I was, that they looked at me with some sort of pleasure. You may easily imagine, that if I took such notice at that early age, Barberina, who was a perfect Greek, would not fail to make her observations also ; and I could perceive that she did so with secret satisfaction.

Our good friend Alzine came sometimes to see us at Talego's farm ; but for one

visit she made us, we made her four; because she had always good company, who were pleased with Barberina. Every time we went to see the Alguazil's widow, we were sure to find there two or three Navy Officers, and also a young Lieutenant of Infantry, who was only waiting, as he said, for a favourable opportunity to go to Genoa, to join his regiment, which was in the Milanese. The time, however, passed on; he still remained; and you, no doubt, already begin to perceive that I was the cause of this delay? This officer, whose name was Don Gabriel de Ginestar, probably more struck with the lively brilliancy of my youth than with my beauty, had fallen in love with me; but, instead of declaring his passion, like a hot-headed, hare-brained lover, he had the prudence to hide it with so much art, that no one even suspected it. And, on my part, I admired him: I was astonished to see one of his profession so sensible and so grave. But all this proved to be a mere feint: the little traitor soon threw off the mask, and let us see that we

are often deceived in men, when we suppose them virtuous. Don Gabriel had formed the design of carrying me off; and his plan was so well laid, that he executed it one evening without any trouble, as I was returning by myself to the farm. This did not often happen; but it was to be so that evening. Three or four men came upon me unawares, took me in their arms, and carried me in an instant on board a vessel, which was waiting for my ravishers on the sea shore, and which set sail with me instantly.

I fainted away with terror the first moment the men seized me; and I remained a long time insensible: at length recovering, and casting my eyes on the faces of those by whom I was surrounded, I distinguished that of Don Gabriel de Ginestar; who, to prevent my reproaches, or, at least, to render them less poignant, said to me, with a submissive and respectful air, "Charming Inesilla, I must confess that you have cause of complaint against me, and you

cannot fail to regard me as a monster; but if, suspending your just anger, you will hear me with coolness for a moment, you will not find my crime unworthy of pardon. You must acknowledge, I have not snatched you from the arms of a tender affectionate father, and of a mother who loves you as herself; but from a godmother, who was a mere stranger to your family, and a woman who would have sold your honour. I know more than you on this head; and you may be sure she only educated you with that infamous intention. Therefore, beautiful Inesilla, far from looking upon me as a ravisher, consider me as a man sent from Heaven, to save your innocence from impending danger. I am a gentleman, tolerably rich. I adore you. Suffer me to conduct you to my castle, where, to shew you the purity of my intentions, I will marry you instantly, if my person is agreeable to you."

This discourse of Don Gabriel was uttered with so persuasive an air, that he threw dust into my eyes: and, instead of



bursting out into invectives and imprecations against him, I only answered him by tears and groans. He suffered me to give free scope to my grief; and, whilst it gradually abated, the vessel arrived near Tortosa; a port, where my Paris landed me; and making me get with him into a chaise, provided by his orders, he carried me to the Castle of Ginestar. You may easily imagine, brother, that I did not feel myself in the power of a ravisher without trembling: but this ravisher appeared so respectful, and so polite, that my alarm was much diminished. I will even own to you, since I have promised to conceal nothing, that I accustomed myself, by degrees, to look upon him without horror.

[I interrupted my sister in this place. "My dear Inesilla," said I, "it is not difficult to guess the rest. You found this cavalier amiable, you returned his love, and you remained with him as his mistress, without becoming his wife." "Pardon me," said Inesilla, "he married me, as he promised to do; and he convinced me that

I was married to a very honourable man. He behaved to me with the greatest tenderness and respect; and my heart, sensible to his attachment, did not repay him with ingratitude. We lived in the most perfect harmony, for a short time; but scarcely had we tasted the sweets of a happy marriage, than we had to part. Don Gabriel was obliged to go to Italy; where he had no sooner joined his regiment, than he lost his life in the field of honour. To add to my misfortune, I now learnt a circumstance that I was before ignorant of; for my husband had never disclosed his affairs to me: I found that he had no other inheritance from his father than a good name; that the Castle of Ginestar was mortgaged for sums far beyond its value; in a word, that I might consider myself fortunate, if the creditors did not seize upon a little settlement that Don Gabriel had made on me when we married.”]

Behold me then a widow, noble and indigent; but a dowager of fifteen is in no great danger of being abandoned by all

mankind. An uncle of my husband's, Don Cosmo de Tivisa, a gentleman of property residing near the Castle of Ginestar, soon came to offer me his services. This gentleman was much more than fifty years of age; and had the air of a philosopher, a Seneca, who only spoke in aphorisms. He had often visited me; but more so after I became a widow. "My dear niece," said he to me, on his first visit after the death of Don Gabriel, "if I cannot heal your grief, I can, at least, administer some consolation, in offering you my purse and my advice."

He accompanied this generous offer with so much affectionate attention, and seemed to take so great an interest in the welfare of the forlorn widow, that I looked upon him as one of the most amiable and disinterested of mankind; and was thankful to Heaven for having met with a person who felt so sensibly for my misfortunes. He first gained my confidence by an assumed air of sincerity, and particularly by his age; for I supposed old men were free from the

dominion of love. I was, however, soon undeceived: the philosopher, Don Cosmo, even on his second visit, gave me to understand that he had conceived a violent passion for me. He endeavoured to conceal it beneath the veil of friendship; but friendship forms only a thin veil for the passion of love; as was fully exemplified in his discourse. In the overflowing of his heart, he invited me to go and live with him; saying, that the creditors of Don Gabriel would immediately turn me out of the Castle of Ginestar. "Come to me," he said, with the greatest sweetness; "come to my estate: you know it is a pleasant retreat: besides, I have some female neighbours who merit your friendship; and you will, besides, be with an uncle, whose chief happiness shall be the promotion of yours."

At these words, I said to myself, "Oh! oh! this is a very affectionate uncle. I much fear that his design is to make me pay very dearly for his hospitality. I foresee that he will offer me his hand; and that my circumstances will not permit me to

refuse him." In this I was not deceived. Don Cosmo soon made a formal declaration, that he was much struck with my charms, and wished to marry me; adding, to gild the pill, and make me swallow it more readily, (for he seemed aware of my reluctance, and, in truth, his person was very repulsive to all ideas of love,) that his liberality should supply the want of youth, which he no longer possessed. What could I do? Had I only consulted my inclination, it is certain I should have politely dismissed my uncle, who was not calculated, either in person or manner, to win the heart of a young widow. I found it necessary, however, to make prudence my guide, instead of inclination; and I consented at last, I must own, with aversion, to take this old philosopher for my second husband.

A man who marries, in the latter part of life, a person to whom he might be grandfather, seldom lives long; and the unfortunate Don Cosmo did not long survive his marriage. I became a widow, for the

second time, at the end of six months ; with this difference, that my second marriage had put me in easy circumstances ; and my heart sustained no loss in one who was not, or ever could be, the partner of it. My two husbands had passed away like shadows." [At these words, I fell into a fit of laughing ; and said to my sister, " You did not long remain a broken-hearted widow, I am sure. A dowager of sixteen will not find men cruel. After your shadows, you, no doubt, looked for substance. Come, now for your third marriage." " Do not make a jest, brother," replied my sister, " of what I am telling you seriously. I do not think I have said any thing that ought to give you a light opinion of me." " On the contrary," returned I, " far from disapproving your second marriage, I think it did great credit to your good sense and prudence. But if you continue to fly from one husband to another so quickly, I fear you will be accused of want of delicacy. I long to hear of the third. Was it love or prudence that prevailed ? purse or person ?"

“From what I see, my brother,” said Inesilla, smiling and blushing at the same time, “you love a jest. It is certain, that if I had had many more husbands, I might have incurred the accusation of being a libertine. But Don Cosmo had but one successor. Spare me a diffuse account of my third husband. He was the man I loved the best of all. I will relate to you who this man was, and how, after a short courtship, Hymen united us by his tenderest ties; which were dissolved by death, at the very commencement of our happiest days. Never can I recall the remembrance of my dear Saloni, but my heart seems bursting with anguish, and its ill-closed wounds bleed afresh. With him I tasted the purest delights of nuptial happiness, bliss too great for mortals long to enjoy. Oh! best of men, and of husbands! why was your span of life so short!”]

Three months after the death of my old philosopher, Don Cosmo, I left the country, to reside at a house I had hired in Tortosa. What a privilege widows enjoy! I received

company freely, and visited the ladies of my acquaintance in return. One day that I was out in a large party, there came in a young cavalier, of so engaging an appearance, that he immediately attracted all eyes. I particularly observed that the ladies looked upon him with a favourable eye; and, to confess the honest truth, I also was much pleased with his person. But if I took pleasure in looking at him, I had the heart-felt gratification of perceiving he had no eyes but for me, from the first moment he observed me. This observation much flattered my vanity, and made me earnestly wish to know the name and the rank of this stranger. "I will not go out of the house," said I to myself, "till I have fully satisfied my curiosity." "Who is this young gentleman?" said every one, in a low voice, to her neighbour: "what is his name?" Those who knew him, whispered it in the ears of the others; and I soon learnt that this dangerous mortal was the only child of a rich innkeeper in the city of Barcelona, of the name of Saloni.



When I found he was not a man of quality, as I had fully expected from his appearance, I judged him beneath me. The widow of two *Hidalgos* thought she must hold up her head, and not ally herself to plebeian blood; so I ceased to think of this young plebeian. But the case was different with him. Next day I observed him pass and repass before my windows, glancing his eyes at me. This made me suppose he had the audacity to dare to look up to me; and, not contenting himself with besieging my house during the day, he passed part of the night under my balcony, playing on the guitar, and singing; for he had a very fine voice: but I was deaf, as well as blind, to a plebeian.

My gallant did not trust to singing, or sighing, or side-long glances, for the accomplishment of his wishes: he made presents to Laura, my servant; who promised, in return, to procure him an interview with me. She knew very well I thought *Saloni* handsome: I had owned it to her, in confidence; and she did not doubt I

would consent to see him. However, when she proposed it to me, I objected to it; but my Abigail, with the help of love, overcame my scruples so entirely, that, one fine night, she introduced Saloni into my room, as a favoured lover.

He began with throwing himself upon his knees, and saying with transport, "Ah, my dear life! have I then, at last, the happiness, the rapture, to have it in my power to confirm with empassioned voice what my eyes have already so often proclaimed! I know that a man who is not of illustrious descent cannot, without presumption, look up to you, to offer his vows: but love, almighty love, like an overwhelming torrent, overpowers timidity, and forces me to break silence." At these words, he paused to hear my answer. It was such as gave him to understand that I pardoned his audacity. Could I drive such a lover to distraction? He might suffer all the miseries of Cardenio in the Sierra Morena, if I remained inexorable: so, far from affecting the haughtiness I ought to have

done, in honour of the memories of my former husbands, I had not even address enough to conceal from him the inmost recesses of my heart: he perceived the victory he had gained over me; and, to reap the fruits of it, he talked in such tender, such empassioned accents, that I was much agitated. He appeared to me more than mortal, with such animation in his fine eyes; his person so well formed; his love so ardent: these are embarrassments to lovers. However, in spite of the weakness I felt for him, I had sufficient resolution to make him depart before morning, without having hazarded my honour in so dangerous a conversation."

[“ You were very lucky, sister !” I exclaimed in this part of her story; “ you make me tremble for the second interview. If he had pressed again, I fear, in my heart, you would have granted more.” “ You are very severe, brother,” said Inesilla: “ you need not alarm yourself: this is your second suspicion that I have not always been a virtuous woman. However, to dissipate

your fears, and shorten my history, I must tell you that Saloni wrote me a letter the next day, in which he expressed the utmost impatience to marry me ; and he was about to set out immediately to acquaint his father with it, and get his consent. I informed him, in return, that I approved of his intention, and that my consent would follow that of his father. Upon which the lover flew to Barcelona, and returned at the end of eight days." "Madam," said the impassioned lover, "I have the consent of my father: you have promised yours. Deign therefore to accelerate my happiness." You will conceive that, after this, we were not slow in repairing to the altar; and fifteen days after our marriage, my husband conducted me to Barcelona.

"I know not," said Inesilla, "if at this moment you do not reproach me in your heart, for having given my hand to a plebian, after being the wife of two gentlemen. I appear to you, perhaps, to have demeaned myself." "You are joking, sister," I interrupted her, laughing: "Do you believe me

such a fool as to find fault with a physician's daughter for marrying the son of a wine-merchant? Were you the daughter of Hippocrates himself, I should not blame you."

"I am of your opinion," replied my sister; "and I will also freely confess to you, that, with all the respect I owe to the memories of my former husbands, and my father, I care very little if their shades blush at my third marriage: I had no reason to repent having contracted it. My husband's father gave me the kindest reception, and loved me as if I had been his daughter: he knew not how to be kind enough to me." "I am delighted," he would say frequently to his son, "that you have chosen a wife so worthy of your love and my affection."]

If this worthy old man had affection for me, I was not behind in acknowledging it; or, to speak more properly, I grew so much attached to him, that, had he been my own father, I could not have loved him more; and thus beloved as I was, by my father-in-law, and adored by my husband, judge if I did not lead a happy life. But as, in this

world, all is subject to change, my happiness soon vanished, and I lost the object of my affections. My dream of happiness was succeeded by the most terrible of misfortunes: my husband was carried off in the course of two days, by the cholera morbus, which the most skilful physicians of Barcelona were unable to relieve him from.

This blow, so sudden and unexpected, struck me to the earth. My father-in-law and myself were both so violently affected, that we were near dying of grief. Heaven gave us strength, however, to bear the blow; and, by degrees, we recovered our serenity. But never can my heart again love another. My affections lie buried in the grave with my Saloni.

Some time after this melancholy catastrophe, my father-in-law, in talking over our affairs, entreated me not to think of marrying again, and abandoning an old man who stood in need of all my tenderness, to console him for the loss of an invaluable son. "What are you talking of?"

interrupted I, with eagerness: "I mean never to think of a husband or a lover again. Who can be worthy to succeed my dear Saloni! Never can I love another, should fortune even offer me a prince."..... The good man did not give me time to finish my sentence, but, embracing me with transport, said, "My daughter, your sentiments charm me, and you well deserve what I intend to do for you. I mean to leave you all my wealth; and from this day you shall be mistress of this hotel." And not contenting himself with words, he called all the servants together, and told them to obey me as mistress. Although this little elevation was not very flattering to my vanity, I willingly accepted it, since it gave satisfaction to my father-in-law.

No sooner was it known in Barcelona that the widow of the young Saloni had become mistress of the Phoenix Hotel, than the young men came in crowds to see me; and when they talked in their jesting manner, I spoke with a degree of reserve

gained me their respect, and increased my credit and respectability. I had not been manager of the hotel more than three years, when my father-in-law paid the debt we all owe to nature, and left me, by his will, considerable wealth. I wept with unfeigned sorrow at his death ; but, having had fortitude to sustain the loss of the son, I was not weak enough to be inconsolable for the father. I soon dried my tears, and continued my business ; which has flourished ever since.



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WHEN Inesilla had finished her history, she addressed me as an affectionate sister: "I have already, my brother," said she, with an air of sincerity that accorded with her words, "told you, that, if you will take up your residence in Barcelona, you shall remain with a sister who has wealth enough for both. Let us live together; and you can help me with your advice, in matters where I stand in need of it." "Sister," said I, "I declare to Heaven that I should prefer the tranquillity of living with you to all the offers I have had, could I do it with honour; but you know that I have engagements which impel me to go to Palermo." Inesilla, therefore, thinking it would be in vain to endeavour to turn me from my determination, ceased her entreaties; and, in order to make her consent the more readily to my departure, I promised to return to Barcelona in two years, and never quit her again.

It now becoming necessary for me to embark for Italy, I took my passage in a Genoese vessel, and at three in the morning we set sail by moonlight. A strong northeasterly wind drove us quickly along the coast of Provence; so that we soon left the shores of Nice and Antibes, with their olive-covered hills, behind us. The majestic Alps already began to rise, as it were, from the surface of the ocean; and, at length, the coast of Genoa struck our eyes, in all its magnificence. Here the high mountains covered with wood; the multitude of villages, and well-built towns; the variety of cultivation; and the luxuriance of the vegetable world; all concur to render the scene one of the finest of the Mediterranean. It was about eleven o'clock when we perceived the light-house of Genoa: the sky being overcast, it flamed like a ball of fire, elongated into the form of a column. Towards three we came to the entrance of the harbour; where orders being given to us, with a speaking trumpet from the top of the light-house, we were obliged to cast anchor till day light.

The light-house fires now began to fade, and we soon distinguished the port and masts of ships ; the Alpine masses of mountains came forth from their obscurity ; the dusky hue of the waters, by degrees, assumed a cheerful brightness ; each object appeared in its proper form ; and the magnificent amphitheatre of hills, rising above the waves, displayed itself to our view : a great variety of noises already interrupted the calmness of the port ; the purple tints of morning shone upon our white flag ; and at length the sun, rising in all his splendor, exposed to our view the superb city of Genoa.

I was fortunate enough to find a vessel ready to sail for Sicily ; and, embarking without loss of time, I arrived in safety at Palermo. Although I had no reason to like this place, I could not but admire it. Its regularity, uniformity, and neatness, make it worthy of being the capital of Sicily. The approach to it is fine : the alleys are planted with fruit-trees, intermixed with large American aloes in full bloom.

Palermo is built on an excellent plan: the four principal streets intersect each other in the centre of the city, where they form a handsome square, called the *Quadrangolo*, which is adorned with elegant uniform buildings. From the centre of this square, the principal streets, and the four gates of the city which terminate them, are all visible; the symmetry and beauty of which produce a fine effect. The diameter of the city is about a mile: the lesser streets in general run parallel to the great ones. Some of the gates are elegant pieces of architecture; and the Porta Felice leads to the Marino, a delightful walk, which constitutes one of the chief pleasures of the nobility of Palermo. It is bounded on one side by the city wall, and on the other by the sea, from which there is always a pleasant breeze. In the centre of the Marino stands an elegant temple, which, during the summer months, is made use of as an orchestra for music. The concerts begin at midnight, and at that time the walk is crowded with carriages and people on foot. The better to favour

intrigue, there is an order that no person shall presume to carry a light with him on the Marino. The flambeaux are therefore extinguished at the Porta Felice, where the servants wait for the return of the carriages; and the company generally continue an hour or two together in utter darkness. The concert ends about two in the morning, when the company retire.

Every night are held several *conversazioni*: but there is a general one, supported by the nobility, which opens every evening at sun-set, and continues till midnight. This meeting really deserves its appellation; whereas, in most parts of Italy, people assemble at the *conversazioni* merely to play at cards and eat ice.

Many of the churches of Palermo are extremely rich and magnificent. The cathedral is a venerable Gothic building, supported by eighty columns of oriental granite, and divided into a great number of chapels, some of which are extremely rich; particu-

larly that of St. Rosolia, the patroness of the city, who is held in greater veneration than the Holy Trinity, or even the Virgin herself. The relics of this saint are preserved in a large silver box, curiously wrought, and enriched with precious stones. They perform many miracles; averting the plague, and other similar disasters. In short, the credit of St. Rosolia is as high at Palermo as that of St. Agatha at Catania. The other riches of this church consist of some bones of St. Peter, and an arm of St. John the Baptist. There is here likewise a jaw-bone of prodigious efficacy. The monuments of their Norman Kings, several of whom lie buried here, are of the finest porphyry: some near seven hundred years old, and not badly executed. Opposite to these is an altar, of lapis lazuli, about fifteen feet high, and finely ornamented. Some of the presents made to St. Rosolia are of considerable value. The sacristy, too, is very rich. The Jesuits' church is equal in magnificence to any thing of the kind in Italy. The Chiesa del Palazzo is wholly encrusted



over with ancient mosaic, and the vaulted roof is decorated in a similar style.

The luxury of the people here, like that of the Neapolitans, consists chiefly in their equipages and horses : few of them put less than four horses to their carriage. Even the upper servants of a man of fashion would be as much ashamed to be seen on foot as their master.

The fertility of the soil of Sicily is astonishing ; were it cultivated to the utmost, it would be the granary of Europe. The crops of wheat alone would soon be sufficient to render the Sicilians the richest and most flourishing people in the world. The natural riches of this island are very great. The former Viceroy was for war, and making this island feared by its neighbours : but the young Duke, being anxious to cultivate the arts in peace, and to turn the sword into a ploughshare, determined that the first acts of his government should be to ameliorate the condition of the peasants,

to give every encouragement to working the mines, and to improve the arts of cultivation. The Sicilians were much engrossed in making entertainments for the new Viceroy; and the Prince of Partana gave a great entertainment at his palace, from the balcony of which the Duke of Ossuna reviewed a fine regiment of Swiss. The grenadiers were furnished with false grenades, which produced all the effect of real ones, except that of doing mischief. The throwing of these seemed to entertain the populace mightily. When a number of them fell together, the crowd defended themselves very dexterously with their hats; and the only damage done was the singeing a few caps and wigs.

The company at the Prince Partana's was brilliant, and the entertainment noble. It consisted principally of ices, creams, chocolate, sweetmeats, and fruit, of which there was great variety. Some played at cards; the rest amused themselves in conversation, and walking on the terrace. The young Prince and Princess, who were very amiable,

with several of their companions, played at cross-purposes, and other similar games. The Sicilian ladies are easy, affable, and unaffected. Here the mothers shew a proper confidence in their daughters, and allow their real characters to form and ripen. Some of the families at Palermo live in the practice of all the domestic virtues.

The greatest parade ever seen in this city is on the festival of St. Rosolia, which begins at five in the afternoon. The triumphal car of the Saint is drawn with great pomp through the centre of the city, and is preceded by a troop of horse, with trumpets and kettle-drums, with all the city officers in their gala uniform. The car is a most enormous machine; measuring in length seventy feet, in width thirty feet, and is upwards of eighty feet high. As it passed along, it over-topped the loftiest houses in Palermo. The form of its lowest part is galley-shaped, swelling as it advances in height; while the front resembles an amphitheatre, with seats filled with a numerous band of musicians. Behind this was a

large dome, supported by six Corinthian pillars, and adorned with a number of saints and angels. On the summit of the dome stood the gigantic silver statue of the Saint herself. The whole machine was dressed out with orange-trees and flower-pots. The car stopped every fifty or sixty yards, whilst the orchestra performed a piece of music, with songs, in honour of the Saint.

This vast fabric was drawn by fifty-six mules, in two rows, curiously caparisoned, and driven by twenty-eight postillions, dressed in gold and silver stuffs, with large plumes of ostrich-feathers in their hats. Every window and balcony was filled with well-dressed people; and an immense crowd of plebeians followed the car. The triumph, as it is called, lasted about three hours, and was succeeded by the beautiful illumination of the Marino, about a mile in length. Opposite to the centre of this great line of light, a magnificent pavilion was erected for the Viceroy and his company, which consisted of the whole nobility of Palermo; and in the front of this, at a little distance from

the sea, were the great fireworks, representing one side of a palace, adorned with columns, arches, trophies, and every ornament of architecture. All the xebecs, galleys, galliots, and other shipping, were ranged round this place, and formed a kind of amphitheatre in the sea, inclosing it in the centre.

The fireworks began by a discharge of the whole of the artillery; the sound of which re-echoing from the mountains, produced a very noble effect; and after this they played off a variety of water-rockets, and bombs of a curious construction, that often burst below water. This continued for the space of half an hour; when, in an instant, the whole of the palace was beautifully illuminated. At the same time, the fountains that were represented in the court before the palace began to spout fire, and formed a representation of some of the great *jets-d'eau* of St. Ildefonso. As soon as these were extinguished, the court assumed the form of a great parterre, adorned with a great variety of palm-trees of fire, inter-

spersed with orange-trees, flower-pots, and vases.

At once, the illumination of these and the palace ceased, when the front of the latter broke out into the appearance of a variety of suns, stars, and wheels of fire, which soon reduced it to a perfect ruin. And when all appeared to have vanished, there burst from the centre of the pile a vast explosion of two thousand rockets, bombs, serpents, squibs, and devils, which seemed to fill the whole atmosphere. The fall of these made terrible havoc among the clothes of the crowd, who could not afford to pay for shelter ; and proved a wonderful source of amusement to the nobility, who were in safety.

During this exhibition the company was handsomely entertained with coffee, ices, sweetmeats, and a variety of excellent wines, in the great pavilion, in the centre of the Marino. The principal nobility gave similar entertainments every night during the fes-



tival, and vied with each other in the magnificence of the preparations.

The fireworks being finished, the Viceroy put to sea in a galley richly illuminated. It was rowed by seventy-two oars, and presented one of the most beautiful objects imaginable, flying with great velocity over the smooth and glassy surface of the water, which shone round it like a flame, and reflected its splendor on all sides. A numerous band of musicians was stationed in the prow.

This day's entertainment was concluded by the Corso, which began at midnight, and lasted till two in the morning. The great street was illuminated in the same magnificent manner as the Marino. The arches and pyramids were erected at small distances on both sides of the street; and, when viewed from either of the gates, appeared a continued line of vivid flame. Two lines of coaches occupied the space between these two lines of illumination: they were



The next day the spectacles were renewed, but with less brilliancy ; nor was it possible to prevent a falling off, both in the display, and in the eager desire to be pleased. Pleasures may be equally exquisite in themselves, and beauties equally attractive ; but the satiated appetite enjoys them less than when every pulse beats high with desire, and every throb is full of expectation. The entertainment of this day commenced with horse-races, of which there were three ; and six horses started in each. These were mounted by boys of about twelve years of age, without either saddle or bridle, and only a small bit of cord in the horse's mouth, which is sufficient to stop him. The great street was the course ; and it was covered, on purpose, a few inches deep with mould.

The firing of a cannon announced the moment of starting ; and the horses, as if they understood the signal, set off at full speed. From Porto Felice to Porto Nuovo is exactly a mile ; and this was performed in a minute and thirty-five seconds ; which,

considering the small size of the horses, was reckoned very great. They are generally Barbs, or a mixed breed between the Barb and Sicilian.

The moment before starting, the street appeared full of people: nor did the crowd open till the horses were almost full upon it; when the people, by a regular uniform motion, from one end of the street to the other, fell back without bustle or confusion, and the race went on. Some few accidents however happened; and, from appearances, many more might have been apprehended. The victor was conducted along the street in triumph, with his prize displayed before him: this was a piece of white silk, embroidered and worked with gold. The great street was illuminated, as on the preceding night; and the grand *conversazione* of the nobles was held at the Archbishop's palace, which was elegantly fitted up for the occasion.

About ten o'clock, the triumphal car marched back again in procession to the

Marino. It was richly illuminated with large wax tapers, and made a most formidable figure. Don Quixote would have taken it for an enchanted castle, moving through the air.

Next evening the illuminations were very grand. The two great streets, and the four city gates which terminate them, made the most splendid appearance. The square called La Piazza Ottangolare, was richly ornamented with tapestry, statues, and artificial flowers; and, as the buildings which form its four sides are uniform, and of a beautiful architecture, it made a grand display. Four orchestras were erected in it, well provided with musicians.

From the centre of this square is a view of Palermo in all its glory; and indeed the effect it produces is very great. Some of the devices which were seen on the gates represented trophies, armorial bearings, and genii, which had a fine effect.

The *conversazione* of the nobles was held

in the Viceroy's palace ; and the entertainment was proportionably magnificent to the rank of the person who gave it. The Duke of Ossuna loved shew as well as his unfortunate father ; and the Vice-queen never lost an opportunity of making a great display of magnificence : the lively affability of her manner made all quit her parties with satisfaction at their pleasing reception. The great fireworks opposite to the front of the palace began at ten o'clock, and ended at midnight ; when those of the Corso commenced, and continued till two in the morning. The last part of this entertainment will always please the most, as it is the part that reaches the heart.

The fireworks again represented the front of a palace of great extent, illuminated in a very brilliant style. It was seen to great advantage from the balconies of the state apartments in the Viceroy's palace.

The next day was a repetition of the

horse-races. The great assembly was held at the house of the *Judice Monarchia*, an officer of high trust and dignity. Here they had an entertainment and a concert. At eleven at night, the company on foot went to visit the great square and the cathedral ; and though the city was a complete blaze of light, the servants of the Viceroy and nobility attended with wax flambeaux, to shew the way. The crowd round the church ~~was~~ very great ; and without the presence of the Viceroy, it would have been impossible to procure admission. On entering the great gate, one of the most magnificent sights in the world opened on their view. The whole church appeared an entire flame, which, reflected from ten thousand bright and shining surfaces, of different colours and at different angles, produced an effect that exceeded all the descriptions of enchantment in poetry and romance. Human art could not devise any thing more splendid. The whole church, walls, roof, and pillars, were entirely covered with mirrors, interspersed with gold and silver paper, and

artificial flowers done up with great taste and elegance. Add to this fine scene, twenty thousand wax-tapers, and some faint conception may be formed of the splendid exhibition. This spectacle was too glaring to be borne any considerable time, and the heat occasioned by the immense number of lights soon became intolerable. There were more than five hundred lustres, and twenty-eight altars, all dressed out with the utmost magnificence, particularly the high altar. On this part of the exhibition the people of Palermo value themselves most; and, in truth, they well may; for it is scarcely possible to imagine such a scene of grandeur, splendor, and majesty: it seems less to have the appearance of an exhibition of human art, than that of the Temple of the Most High in his heavenly abode; the rapt soul, for the time, is as if transported from earth to heaven.

On the fifth evening was a general illumination of all the streets. The assembly was held at the Mayor's, where there was an elegant entertainment and concert. Some

of the best performers of the Opera were present. The festival was now drawing near to a close. The great procession, which terminates the pageantry, began about ten in the evening. It differed from other processions only in this, that, besides all the priests, friars, and religious orders of the city, there were placed, at equal distances from each other, ten lofty machines of wood and pasteboard, ornamented in an elegant manner, representing temples, tabernacles, and a variety of beautiful pieces of architecture. These were furnished by the different convents and religious fraternities, who vie with each other in the richness and elegance of the work. Some of them are not less than sixty feet high. They are filled with figures of saints and angels, made of wax, so natural, and so admirably painted, that many of them seem to be really alive. All these figures are prepared by the nuns, and are dressed out in rich robes of gold and silver tissue. A great silver box, containing the bones of St. Rosolia, closed the procession. It was carried by thirty-six of the most respectable

Burgesses of the city, who look upon this as an office of the highest honour. The Archbishop walked behind, giving his benediction to the people as he passed. No sooner had the procession gone round the great square before the Mayor's palace, than the fountain in the centre, one of the largest and finest in Europe, was converted into a fountain of fire; throwing it up on all sides, in the most superb style. This only lasted a few minutes, and was extinguished by an explosion which concluded the whole. As this was altogether unexpected, it produced a fine effect, and surprised the spectators more than any of the grand fireworks had done. A mutual and friendly congratulation ran through the whole assembly, which soon after parted; and the following day every thing returned to its natural channel, and resumed its usual order. Every body was fatigued and exhausted with the perpetual watching, feasting, and dissipation, for five successive days. However, all were delighted with the entertainments of the feast of St. Rosolia; which are far superior to the most splendid



exhibitions of the kind, and well worth taking a voyage to Sicily to see. They leave a pleasing impression on the imagination, as long as memory lasts.

It is a fashion in Palermo, after this festival to make a pilgrimage to Mount Pellegrino, to pay personal respects to Saint Rosolia. Our young Viceroy would not omit this ceremony, and set out a few days after. It is a very fatiguing expedition; the mountain being extremely high, and so very steep, that the road up to it is very properly called the Stairs. Before the discovery of St. Rosolia, it was considered as quite inaccessible; but a road is now cut, at a vast expense, through precipices almost perpendicular. The Saint is lying in her grotto, in the very attitude in which she was said to be discovered; her head gently reclining on her hand, and a crucifix before her. This statue is of the finest white marble, and of exquisite workmanship. It is placed in the inner part of the cavern, on the very same spot where the Saint expired. It represents a lovely young girl of

fifteen, in the act of devotion. The artist has contrived to throw something extremely interesting into the countenance and air of this beautiful statue: it is covered with beaten gold, and adorned with some valuable jewels. The cave is of considerable extent, and extremely damp; so that the poor Saint must have had a very uncomfortable habitation. A church is now built round it, and priests appointed to watch over these precious relics, and to receive the oblations of pilgrims. An inscription, graven by the hand of St. Rosolia herself, was found in a cave in Mount Quesquina, at a considerable distance from this mountain. It is said she was disturbed in her retreat there; and had wandered thence to Mount Pelegrino, as a more retired and inaccessible place. After Rosolia was frightened from the cave where this inscription was found, she was never heard of more, till her bones were discovered, about five hundred years after, in this place. The legend recorded of her is, that she was niece to William the Good; that she began very early to display symptoms of sanctity;

and that at fifteen (A.M. 1159) she deserted the world, and renounced all human society. She then retired to the mountains on the west side of Palermo; and it was imagined by the common people that she was taken up into heaven, till, in 1624, during a violent plague, a holy man had a vision, that the saint's bones were lying in a cave, near the top of Mount Pelegrino. In this trance he was told, that if the remains of the saint were taken up with due reverence, and carried in procession thrice round the walls of the city, the plague would immediately cease. Little attention was at first paid to the vision of the holy man, and he was looked upon as little better than a dreamer; however, he persisted in his story, grew noisy, and found adherents; so that the magistrates at last sent to the spot which he had pointed out, and the mighty discovery was made;—the sacred bones were found; the city was freed from the plague; and St. Rosolia became the greatest Saint in the Calendar;—churches were reared, altars were dedicated, and ministers appointed to attend on this new

divinity, whose dignity and consequence have ever since been supported at an incredible expense.

The prospect from the top of Mount Pelegrino is beautiful and extensive. Most of the Lipari Islands are perceptible from it, in a clear day; and likewise a large portion of *Ætna*, though at the distance of the whole length of Sicily. *Palermo* is at its foot, about two miles distant, and appears to great advantage.

Near the middle of the mountain, and not far from its summit, there still appear some remains of a celebrated castle; the origin of which, the Sicilian writers carry back to the most remote antiquity. *Massa* says, it is supposed to have been built in the time of Saturn, immediately after the Flood; for in the time of the earliest Carthaginian wars, it was already much respected, on account of its venerable antiquity. It was then a place of strength, and is often mentioned by the Greek historians. *Hamilcar* kept possession of

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it for three years, against all the Roman power.

Palermo is certainly viewed to great advantage from Mount Pelegrino. This beautiful city stands near the extremity of a kind of natural amphitheatre, formed by high and rocky mountains : but the intervening country is one of the richest and most beautiful spots in the world. The whole appears a magnificent garden, filled with fruit-trees of every species, and watered by clear fountains and rivulets that meander through this delightful campaign. From the singularity of this situation, as well as from the richness of the soil, Palermo has had many flattering epithets bestowed upon it ; particularly by the Poets, who call it the Golden Shell, the Golden Valley, and the Garden of Sicily.

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“During the time that Isaac, the son of Abraham, reigned in the valley of Damascus, and Esau, the son of Isaac, in Idumea, a great multitude of Hebrews, accompanied by many of the people of Damascus, and many Phœnicians, coming into this triangular island, took up their habitation in this most beautiful place, to which they gave the name of Panormus.”

The same Bishop translates another Chaldean inscription, which is still preserved over one of the gates of the city. It is thus given:—“There is no other God but one God. There is no other power, but this same God. There is no other conqueror, but this God, whom we adore. The commander of this tower is Taphu, the son of Eliphar, son of Esau, brother of Jacob, son of Isaac, son of Abraham. The name of the tower is Baych, and the name of the neighbouring



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this tower still remain, and many more Chaldean inscriptions have been found in the vicinity; but they are now in a state so broken and mangled, that they convey no particular information.

This was the time for festivity in Palermo; and the Duke and Duchess of Ossuna were invited to attend a wedding that was going to be solemnized in two of the most powerful families in Palermo. I mention the circumstance, on account of some peculiar customs among the Sicilians. As soon as the marriage ceremony is performed, two of the attendants are ready to cram a spoonful of honey into the mouths of the bride and bridegroom; pronouncing it emblematical of their love and union, which they hope will ever continue as sweet to their souls, as the honey is to their palates. They then begin to throw handfuls of wheat upon them; which is continued till the new-married pair reach their future abode. The young couple are not allowed to taste of the marriage-feast. This, it is pretended, is to teach them patience and

temperance. However, when dinner is finished, a great bone is presented to the bridegroom, by the bride's father, or one of her nearest relations; who pronounces this sentence, "Pick you this bone, for you have now taken in hand to pick one which you will find much harder, and of more difficult digestion." This is supposed to have given rise to the proverb in such general circulation, "He has got a bone to pick."

The marriages of the Sicilian nobility are celebrated with great magnificence; and the number of elegant carriages produced on the occasion is astonishing. The ladies enter the bands of wedlock very young, and frequently live to see the fifth generation. In general, they are sprightly and agreeable, and may be called handsome: they have remarkably fine hair, and they understand how to dress it to the greatest advantage. It is now only used as an ornament; but in former times, during a long siege, their countrymen being distressed for

bow-strings, they cut off their hair, and applied it to this purpose. "The hair of our ladies," says a quaint Sicilian bard, "is still employed in the same office; but now it discharges no other shafts than those of Cupid, and the only cords it forms, are those of love."

But methinks I hear a gentle reader say, "When our hero gets to Sicily, he abounds too much in extraneous matter: these are not your own adventures which you are relating: tell us what you are doing; and if *you* are likely to have a spoonful of honey crammed into your mouth?" My fair Reader, (for it must be a lady who has so much curiosity,) I will now revert to my own more immediate concerns: but, in truth, I am growing so sober and steady, I meet with few adventures; and you must prepare for their drawing to a close.

The Sirocco wind now began to blow: this is felt like the burning steam from the mouth of an oven, and the whole atmosphere seems

in a flame. In few minutes, every fibre is relaxed, and all the pores of the body opened. This scorching wind seldom lasts more than thirty-six hours at a time; and, during its continuance, not a native is to be seen abroad, unless compelled by urgent business. All their doors and windows are close shut, to prevent the external air from entering; and the servants are constantly employed in sprinkling the apartments with water, to keep the air in as temperate a state as possible. By these means, people of fashion suffer but little from the Sirocco, except from the strict confinement to which it subject them. It is worthy of remark, that, notwithstanding the scorching heat of this wind, it has never been known to produce any epidemic distempers, nor indeed any bad consequences, whatever, to the health of the people. It is true, they feel extremely weak and relaxed; but this is of no long duration, as the cool breeze soon braces them up again: whereas, in Naples, and many other parts of Italy, where it is apparently less violent, it is often succeeded

by putrid disorders, and never fails to produce almost a general dejection of spirits. There, however, the Sirocco lasts many days, and sometimes for weeks; so that, as its effects are different, it probably proceeds from a different cause. One of their authors maintains, that it is the same wind which sweeps the sandy deserts of Arabia, where it sometimes proves mortal in the space of half an hour. He alleges, that it is cooled in its passage over the sea, which entirely disarms it of its fatal effects before it reaches Sicily. After the Sirocco is over, the grass and plants, which had been green the day before, become quite brown, and crackle under the feet, as if dried in an oven.

Whether it was owing to the Sirocco wind, or to the long train of feasting that the Viceroy had been engaged in, or some other cause, he was seized with a disorder which the physicians could not cure, (notwithstanding Doctor Arriscador was called in,) and expired in a few days, in the arms of his amiable and affectionate wife. This sudden and melan-

choly event caused great grief and consternation throughout the island, as well as among the domestics of the Duke. For my own part, I was provided with a home ; and though I felt sincere grief for the premature death of this amiable and accomplished nobleman, I was not sorry to be left at liberty to follow my own plans, which I thought would be most to my advantage ; and living with my disinterested sister, I did not doubt, would insure my ease and comfort.

The body of the Viceroy was to be conveyed in state to Spain, and there deposited with his ancestors. All the household had orders to attend. We embarked without loss of time ; and a fair wind soon landed us at Barcelona, whence we proceeded to Madrid. After the obsequies, I was paid my wages, and dismissed, having first received a handsome present.

Before I finally bade adieu to Madrid, I went to visit my two associates. The



Señora Dalfa, by the aid of her renovated beauty, had now got a new engagement with the Count Cevallos, a rich, though an old lover; but he supported her in high style, and she thought that her beauty was held on too precarious a tenure to allow her to be very nice. They gave me a good reception, and said trade went on very well with them: young and old still flocked to their fountain of youth and beauty; and they began to fear lest beauty should become too common, and cease to be admired. “Never fear that,” said I; “beauty will never lose its estimation.” Before I left them, I received five hundred pistoles, as my share of reward for beautifying decayed charms. With that resource, and the share in my sister’s business, I hoped now to flourish well in the world, without being subject to the changes and losses I had experienced. I left them, well satisfied with their diligence, and honourable dealings with me; and I had good cause to be pleased with my present prospects. However, some may think me falling down in the world, when my former

prospects are considered : but though some of them were flattering, they were precarious ; and I soon found that my home with Ferrari would no longer have been the same. “ What ! has he had a spoonful of honey crammed down his throat ? ” some sagacious reader will exclaim. “ Even so ! as might be conjectured, after his vehement protestations against wedlock : but then he had not *seen* the fair Isabella, or *imagined* that Nature could form a work so perfect.”

Soon after I left Burgos, Ferrari, attending one evening, a party at the house of a lady of a grandee, became acquainted with Donna Violante, and her daughter, the fair Isabella. Donna Violante was a rich widow residing in Burgos, and esteemed the most fascinating woman of the place. She had married at fifteen, and was considered a perfect beauty ; her person was tall and graceful ; her face full of health, beauty, sensibility, and good humour. She had married Don Octavian de Peralte, to whom she made the best of wives : her mind was cultivated, and

her manners charming, with a grace and dignity that captivated all beholders. The fair Isabella was eighteen, and exactly what her mother had been in the days of her blooming beauty; with a mind worthy of so fair a frame, and well cultivated by her excellent parent. Donna Violante had been a widow two years; but it was not easy to decide if mother or daughter gained most admiration in company. Donna Violante had maturer charms, with more experience of the world: the fair Isabella was a bud of beauty, full of sweetness and modesty, whom none could behold without loving. Do you think Ferrari could see this beauty, and still persist in saying that the God of Love should no more rekindle his torch for him? Ah! no: he felt he was no longer his own master: he returned to his castle, but it was a dreary void; the company of men was no longer delightful. “Do I not lead the life of a savage?” said he: “How much more delightful and interesting this castle would be, with an amiable wife and smiling babes! Who cares for me now? I have none to

come after me. Who will be my heirs, when I die?" Ferrari was now a miserable, forlorn, solitary being. He sought out the acquaintance of Donna Violante and the fair Isabella: the more he saw, the more he loved. "I must be a husband," he said, "to be blessed. What is a life like mine, but savage liberty? To live to wear the chains of the fair Isabella, can be no slavery: her mind is too well tempered to be capricious. But will Hymen pardon my insults and reproaches; or will he revenge himself on me for my insults, by hardening the heart of the fair Isabella? I could not gain this amiable fair one, by making love, like the elephant, with my castle on my back. Her mind was not sordid: and if she could not love me, I was sure, spite of my wealth, to be rejected. I serenaded my idol; and took all possible pains to make myself pleasing in her sight, and to convince her of the ardour of my love. I found, to my inexpressible rapture, I was not displeasing to her. I was so anxious to shorten the probation of a lover, that at length my

eager assiduity won the mother to favour my suit, and the fair Isabella soon consented to bless me with her hand."

It was necessary for Donna Violante to go to Madrid, to settle some business previous to this marriage. She left Burgos, with Hymen triumphing over one rebellious subject, who had vowed to forswear his courts for ever. She arrived at Madrid; and, lo! another determined bachelor becomes a votary; and the saffron robe of the God of Marriage is to be put on for another rebel. And who should this be, but the resolute Don Henry de Bolagnos! who had thought his heart proof against bright eyes, fair forms, and blooming complexions, and his mind not to be won by any mental attractions. But then, when he boasted of being invulnerable, he had no idea of an object in creation so perfect as Donna Violante. He became acquainted with her whilst she was at Madrid; and he no sooner saw than he loved:—but it cannot be said, that he no sooner loved than he told it. Shame kept him tongue-tied:

How could he bring himself again to ask a hand in marriage? He *thought*, and believed he *wished*, this might end like his former loves; and Donna Violante would in the end have her name scratched out of his register. In vain did he strive to drive her image from his heart: pride and love had a violent contest; he thought he did not wish to have a friend and companion for his solitary hours, but that the evening of life would be far more happily spent without a wife and without a friend; no one, indeed, in whom he could place confidence. In vain did his piercing eyes scrutinize to find levity, ambition, or avarice, in Donna Violante: she stood the fiery ordeal. He at length found he could banish suspicion, and proudly feel he had found a wife and a friend. Don Henry grew daily more and more enamoured. Love vanquished his pride; he was no longer tongue-tied: and Hymen had to wave his triumphant torch over the heads of two deriders of his power. Don Henry was too respectable to be rejected by Donna Violante: she agreed, on giving up her

daughter, to consent to receive him for her husband; and the two marriages were sol<sup>e</sup>m-nized on the same day; the two converts becoming most zealous advocates for their new sovereign. They were exemplary subjects, and made the best of husbands to the most amiable of wives; and both had the happiness of living to train up a virtuous progeny, and to transmit their virtues and wealth to posterity.

I must own, I trembled for myself when I heard of these two apostates: "Shall not I also turn renegado?" said I to myself: "who knows but my cold flinty heart may be warmed by a pair of bright eyes, and become vulnerable to Cupid's arrows." I felt so much afraid of myself, that I began to think my best plan, on my return to Barcelona, would be to enter on my noviciate as one of the Hermits of Monserrat, who are not even allowed to look upon a woman: on that I might safely rest my security. I resolved to leave Inesilla her choice; of taking me for a partner, and running the

hazard of having me entrapped by some brilliant beauty, whom no heart could resist; or to have me secured from giving her a sister-in-law, by taking refuge among the Hermits.

I had nothing now to detain me from returning to Barcelona, there to fix myself for life; and I accordingly bade an eternal adieu to Madrid, resolving to change my home no more. When I returned to Barcelona, my sister gave way to her joy: "Oh! now my brother," she said, "the face of our affairs is changed: you have no longer engagements to prevent your uniting your fate to mine. But I fear you may yet take a fancy to attach yourself to some grandee, although those you have devoted yourself to have not well paid your zeal and services." "Banish your fears, my sister," I replied; "know that I have had enough of the service of the great: it is sweeter to live independent, than to have a master. I had rather be *your* head-man, than officer to a Duke or a Marquis. Oh!



I shall take great pleasure in dividing with you the cares and attentions of your hotel, and to help you in your employment. In short, I am persuaded that I shall enjoy with you perfect happiness, if you do not bring in a brother-in-law. I own to you, I am not without apprehensions on that head." "Oh!" said my sister, "set your heart at rest thereon; you will never see me again in the power of a husband. I think I ought," said she, laughing, "to be content with three; although the whole three hardly lasted the time of one. "It is true," said I, "your husbands lived so short a time, that it is not right to reproach you. But enough of this; let our union be unalterable, and the temple of Hymen be for ever shut to both—no brother-in-law, no sister-in-law in our house, if we would live happily together." "I have already said so," replied Inesilla, "and I repeat it again; Hymen's torch shall no more burn for me: and I swear it by all that can render an oath sacred." "On my side, my sister," said I, "I have long vowed that I will live and die in

celibacy ; and I assure you, I will perform my vow."

After we had each promised to pass the rest of our days, she in the agreeable widowhood in which she had the happiness to be, and I in the sweet and free condition of a bachelor, to which nothing in the world is comparable ; she said, " Brother, I make you the partner of my hotel, and of my fortune, which is already in a flourishing state. Let us augment it, if we can, by our care ; and join in an agreement, drawn by a notary, that all our property shall be common, and belong to the survivor." I was not such an enemy to myself as to refuse the generosity of Inesilla : I voluntarily signed this act, and, by the single stroke of a pen, laid the foundation of my fortune. I am now in a truly happy state.

I thought nothing could be more apropos for Inesilla and myself, who had devoted the remainder of our days to celibacy, than to make a pilgrimage to the Hermits of

Monserat. I proposed the plan to her; and we set out one fine morning, mounted on our mules. For about five or six miles, the road is finished with a magnificence equal to the best about Madrid; but after that, it relapses into its original state: however, though rough for carriages, it is very soft and pleasant for riding. The country up the Lobregat is very well cultivated, but subject to frequent inundations, which make cruel havoc. As you approach the mountain, the number of vineyards diminishes, and that of olive-grounds increases.

At Martorel, a large town, where much black lace is manufactured, is a very high bridge, with Gothic arches, built out of the ruins of a decayed one, that had existed 1985 years from its erection by Hannibal. At the north end is a triumphal arch, or gateway, said to have been raised by that general, in honour of his father Hamilcar. It is almost entire, well proportioned, and simple, without any kind of ornament.

After dinner, we continued our journey, through Espalungera, a long village, full of cloth and lace manufacturers: and about three, arrived at the foot of the mountain of Monserrat, one of the most singular in the world, for situation, shape, and composition. It stands single, towering over a hilly country, like a pile of grotto work, or Gothic spires. Its height is about three thousand three hundred feet.

We ascended by the steepest road, as that for carriages winds quite round, and requires half a day's travelling. After two hours' tedious ride, from east to west, up a narrow path cut out of the side of gulleys and precipices, we reached the highest part of the road, and turned round the easternmost point of the mountain, near the deserted hermitage of St. Michael. Here we came in sight of the convent, placed in a nook of the mountain: it seems as if vast torrents of water, or some violent convulsion of nature, had split the eastern face of Monserrat, and formed in the cleft a suffi-

cient platform to build the monastery upon. The Lobregat roars at the bottom; and perpendicular walls of rock, of prodigious height, rise from the water edge, near half way up the mountain. Upon these masses of white stone rests the small piece of level ground which the monks inhabit. Close behind the abbey, and in some parts impending over it, huge cliffs shoot up in a semicircle, to a stupendous elevation: their summits are split into sharp cones, pillars, pipes, and other odd shapes, blanched and bare; but the interstices are filled up with forests of evergreen, and deciduous trees and plants. Fifteen hermitages are placed amongst the woods; nay, some of them on the very pinnacles of the rocks, and in cavities hewn out of the loftiest of these pyramids. The prospect is not only astonishing, but absolutely unnatural. These rocks are composed of limestone of different colours, glued together by sand and a yellow calcareous earth. There may, perhaps, be reason to suspect fire to have been a principal agent in the formation of this insulated mountain.

This is one of the forty-five religious houses of the Spanish congregation of the order of St. Benedict ; their general chapter is held every fourth year at Valladolid, where the deputies choose abbots and other dignitaries for the ensuing quadrennium. In this monastery they elect for abbot a Catalan and a Castilian alternately. Their possessions are great, consisting of nine villages, lying to the south of the mountain ; but the King has lately curtailed their income about six thousand livres a year, by appropriating to his own use the best house in each village ; some of which, with their tithes, are worth two hundred dollars per annum. Their original foundation, in 866, gave them nothing but the mountain ; and to donations and economy they owe the great increase of their landed property. They are bound to feed and harbour, for three days, all pilgrims that come up to pay their homage to the Virgin : the allowance is a luncheon of bread in the morning, as much more with broth at noon, and bread again at night. About three years ago, the

King proposed to them to abolish this obligation of hospitality, on condition that the convent should subscribe a fixed sum towards the establishment of a poor-house in Barcelona. The principals of the abbey were inclined to accept of the proposal; but the mob of monks opposed it vehemently: and such a scheme being very contrary to the interests of the miraculous image, she resented it highly, and, according to her old custom, vanished in anger from the altar. Soon after, she was discovered in the cave where she was originally found; nor would she stir till the intended innovation was over-ruled.

The number of professed monks is seventy-six, of lay-brothers twenty-nine, and of singing-boys twenty-five, besides physician, surgeon, and servants. Having breakfasted very early, a monk waited upon us, to shew us the church. It is gloomy, and the gilding much sullied by the smoke of eighty-five lamps of silver, of various forms and sizes, that hang round the cornice of the sanctuary.

Funds have been bequeathed, by different devotees, for furnishing them with oil. The choir above stairs is decorated with good carving in wood. A gallery runs on each side of the chancel, for the convenience of the monks. A large iron grate divides the church from the chapel of the Virgin, where the image stands in a nich, over the altar ; before which burn four tapers in large silver candlesticks, the present of the Duke of Medina Celi. In the sacristy and passages leading to it are presses and cupboards full of relics, and ornaments of gold, silver, and precious stones. They pointed out to us, as the most remarkable, two crowns for the Virgin and her son, of inestimable value ; some large diamond rings, and an excellent cameo of Medusa's head ; the Roman Emperors in alabaster, the sword of St. Ignatius, and the chest that contains the ashes of a famous brother, John Guarin. This celebrated anchorite lived for many years, devoting the greatest part of his life to prayer and meditation : he scarcely ever went out of his cell, for fear of exposing himself to



the danger of offending God : he fasted in the day-time, and watched in the night : all the inhabitants of the country had so great a veneration for him, and so highly valued his prayers, that they commonly applied to him when they had any favours to beg of Heaven. When he made vows for the health of a sick person, the patient was immediately cured.

It happened that the daughter of the Earl of Barcelona fell into an alarming illness, the cause of which the physicians could not discover, yet they continued prescribing remedies in the dark ; but, instead of amending the Earl's daughter, they only augmented the disease. Her father was inconsolable, for he tenderly loved his daughter ; and, finding all human aid vain, he determined to send her to the holy anchorite. The principal attendants of the Earl conducted her to this holy man ; but such was her transcendent beauty, even his frozen age was not proof against it : he gazed with rapture at her, and determined she should

be his victim. How weak is man! How prone to fall into temptation! He told the attendants that it was requisite Donna Flora should pass the night there, to see whether it would please God to cure her: that he would put up prayers for her; and they should return in the morning to fetch her away. One of the attendants returned to learn the Earl's pleasure; who had such entire confidence in Guarin, that he consented without hesitation. "Let her stay," said he, "with that holy man as long as he pleases: I am quite satisfied on that head."

This holy man ceased to be holy, with such temptation in his way. Donna Flora was violated. The thought of the ignominy he should suffer, perhaps painful death, when his crime became known, induced him to commit a second, by the murder of Donna Flora, with a view to escape detection. History is silent as to the immediate events succeeding: remorse overwhelmed the Catalan anchorite after a time; he repents of his crime, and inflicts on him-

self the penance to live seven years on all-fours, like a wild beast. The Earl of Barcelona catches the savage in his hunting toils, and brings him, as a show, to the city; when, behold! the Earl's son, only a month old, speaks aloud, and bids John arise, for his sins are forgiven. The easy Earl pardons him also, and all of them go in quest of the body of Donna Flora. To their great astonishment, they meet her, restored to life by the Virgin Mary, and as beautiful and young as ever. It is not affirmed that she recovered her virginity: that is a miracle never attempted by any saint. However, she liked the mountain so well, that she there founded a monastery, in which she ended her days as a *nun*.

Immense is the quantity of votive offerings to this miraculous statue; and, as nothing can be rejected, or otherwise disposed of, the shelves are crowded with silver legs, fingers, breasts, ear-rings, watches, two-wheeled chaises, boats, and carts, in endless variety. From the sacristy we went up to

the *camarines*, small rooms behind the high altar, hung with paintings, several of which are very good. A strong plated silver door being thrown open, we were ordered to lean forward and kiss the hand of *Nuestra Señora*. It is half worn away by the eager kisses of its votaries ; but we could not ascertain if it was marble or silver, as it is painted black. The face of the Madonna is regularly handsome, but of the colour of a negro.

Having seen every thing about the convent, where they are now building a new wing, and blowing up a great part of the rock to enlarge the gardens, we set out for the Hermitages ; and took the short way, up a crevice between two huge masses of rock, where, in rainy weather, the waters dash down in furious torrents. We counted six hundred holes, or steps, so steep and perpendicular, that from below we did not discern the least track. A hand-rail, and a few seats to take breath upon, enabled us to perform this escalade. Soon after, we arrived, through a wilderness of evergreens,

at the narrow platform where the first hermit dwells. His cells, kitchen, chapel, and gardens, are admirably neat and romantic, built upon various level patches on the tops of precipices. The view from hence is wild, and, in a fine clear morning, most delightful. The hermit appeared a cheerful, simple old man, in whose mind forty years' retirement seemed to have obliterated all worldly ideas. I have said it is one of the laws of these hermits, that they are not even to look upon a woman. We sat down in the cell of our host, to rest; and I caught his eye, just as it was withdrawn from looking intently on Inesilla. The poor hermit seemed as confused as if he had been detected in the commission of a deadly sin, and he did not know what to do with his eyes: he blinked, then looked up to the ceiling, then down on the floor, then on the wall, then on me, where I fear he espied a smile on my countenance, at the embarrassment which the sin of his eyes had caused him. The hermits are all clad in brown habits, and wear long beards: their way of life is uncomfortable,

and their respective limits very much confined. • They rise at two every morning, ring their bell, and pray till it is time to go to mass at the Hermitage, called the *parish*: it is always said at break of day: some of them have above two hours' walk down to it. The convent allows them bread, wine, salt, oil, one pair of shoes, and one pair of stockings a year, with twenty-five reals a month for other necessities. Two men are kept to assist them in their labour, each in their turn. A mule carries up their provisions twice a week; and is occasionally driven to Barcelona, for salt-fish, and other things, which they purchase by joining together. They get some help from the convent; in return for flowers, vegetables, and fruit, which they send down as presents. They never eat meat, or converse, with each other. Their novitiate is very severe; for they must undergo six months' service in the infirmary of the abbey; one year amongst the novices; and six years further trial, before they are suffered to go up to a hermitage, which they cannot obtain but by the unanimous consent of the whole chapter. They make

every vow of the monks ; and, above all, one of never quitting the mountain : but none of them are allowed to enter into orders. Their first habitation is always the most remote from the convent, and they descend according as vacancies happen in the lower cells.

I could not help ejaculating to myself, on hearing a recapitulation of these rules, "An admirable recipe to drive a person mad ! How ingenious are mankind in devising torments for one another, and racking their brains for inventions to render existence a burden hardly to be borne !" Thinks I to myself, " Were the devil a female, I would consent to take him to wife, in preference to being one of these hermits. I would even do more ; I would consent to take the most pestilential, infernal old maid, that ever was born, in preference."

We left a small present in the chapel window, and continued our walk. Wherever the winding paths are level, nothing can be more delightful than to saunter

through the close woods and sweet wildernesses that fill up the spaces between the rocks. It is impossible to give an adequate idea of the sublime views and uncouth appearance of the different parts of the mountain: a painter or a botanist might wander here, many days, with pleasure and profit. There are few evergreens in Europe that may not be found here, besides a great variety of deciduous plants. The apothecary of the house has a list of four hundred and thirty-seven species of plants, and forty of trees. The greatest want here arises from a scarcity of good water. Except one spring at the parish, and another at the convent, they have no other than cistern water, and that bad enough: this, in summer, is a great inconvenience, and gives the lie direct to those who give florid descriptions of purling streams and dashing cascades, tumbling down on every side from the broken rocks. The want of water is so great, that neither wolf, bear, nor other wild beast, is ever seen on the mountain.

The second hermitage we came to stands



on a point of the rock, over a precipice that descends almost to the very bed of the river: my head was near turned with looking down. The prospect is surprisingly grand, extending over the northern and eastern parts of the province, which are very hilly and bare, bounded by the mountains of Roussillon. The true Pyreneans appear only through some breaks in that chain. Manresa, where Ignatius Loyola made his first spiritual retreat, is the principal town in the view. In a clear day, they assured us they could see Majorca, which is a hundred and eighty-one miles distant. Upon the rock that hangs over the hermit's cell, was formerly a castle, with its cistern and drawbridge, where some banditti harboured. From this strong hold they made excursions, to pillage the neighbouring valleys. By rolling down stones, they kept the monks in perpetual alarm, and obliged them to send up whatever provisions were wanted in the garrison. At last, a few Miquelets climbed up the rocks, from tree to tree, like so many squirrels, surprised the fort, and destroyed this nest of robbers. In commemoration of this

event, the hermitage is dedicated to Saint Dimas, the good thief in the Gospel.

At La Trinitad, the next cell we walked to, the monks by turns go up, to pass a few days in summer, by way of recreation. The hermit has many rooms, and is allowed a boy to wait upon him. He gave us a glass of good Sitjes wine; and a pinch of admirable snuff, made from tobacco raised in his own garden. Having scrambled up to one or two more hermitages, we found our curiosity satisfied; as, except in point of extensiveness of prospect, they varied very little from those we had seen; and therefore we turned down another path, which led us to the dwelling of the Vicar, a monk who during four years takes upon him the direction of the hermits. Had I informed this tyrant of the peccadillo of one of the Brotherhood having fixed his eyes on my sister, I question if, in his holy zeal, he had not put his eyes out, to prevent the repetition of the crime. Lower down, we arrived at Santa Cecilia, the parish church, where every morning the silent inhabitants of this *Thebais* meet to

hear mass and perform divine service ; and twice a week, to confess and communicate. About eleven we got down to the abbey for dinner ; and having received the customary donation of blessed crosses and holy medals, we remounted our mules, and returned to Martorel, where we slept.

I cannot leave this neighbourhood without recording a humorous incident, which occurred not long since in the vicinity. Not far behind the mountains that surround this plain, stands a rich convent of Bernadine monks. Had the weather been milder, we should have paid them a visit ; there being many fine views and natural curiosities in the neighbourhood. As they are far removed from the eye of the world, we have been assured that they lead most dissolute lives : the immense possessions they enjoy are said to serve as so many nurseries and seraglios for them, where the wives and daughters of their vassals are humbly devoted to their pleasures. A modest woman would run great risk of being insulted by the lusty friars, should she venture within

their territories without proper attendance. Some time since, a set of wild young officers, who owed the holy fathers a grudge, carried thither a bevy of common strumpets, dressed out like ladies; and contrived matters so, that while the men of the party went up the hills to see prospects, the females were left to be comforted by the Bernardines. The hot-livered monks employed the time of absence to the best advantage; but smarted so severely for the favours they obtained from the good-humoured nymphs, that for many months afterwards the chief dignitaries of the house were dispersed about in the neighbouring towns, under the care of the barber-surgeons.

Before I quit this subject, I must not omit to record an incident that shews what a furious passion love is in the breasts of these monks. A friar fell desperately in love with a young woman to whom he was confessor. He tried every art of seduction his desires could suggest; but, to his unspeakable vexation, he found her virtue, or indifference, proof against all his machinations. His despair

was heightened to a pitch of madness, upon hearing that she was soon to be married to a person of her own rank in life. The furies of jealousy seized his soul, and worked him up to the most barbarous of all determinations, that of depriving his rival of his prize, by putting an end to her existence. He chose Easter-week for the perpetration of the crime. The unsuspecting girl came to the confessional, and poured out her soul at his feet: her innocence served only to inflame his rage the more, and to confirm him in his bloody purpose. He gave her absolution and the sacrament with his own hands; as his love deterred him from murdering her before he thought she was purified from all stain of sin, and her soul fit to take its flight to the tribunal of its Creator; but his jealousy and revenge urged him to pursue her down the church, where he plunged his dagger into her heart, as she turned round to make a genuflection to the altar. He was immediately seized, and soon condemned to die; but, lest his ignominious execution should reflect dishonour on a religious order, which boasts of having an

aunt. of the King of France among its members, his sentence was changed into perpetual labour with the galley slaves. of Portorico.

We quitted the habitation and neighbourhood of these holy monks without regret, and returned by the shortest road to Barcelona. It will doubtless be expected, by such of my fair readers who abound in idle curiosity, that, now I am settled at an hotel, I shall have plenty of humorous stories to tell, and some scandal to regale them with: but I am drawing my history very fast to a close; and I will only relate a curious Vision that I overheard one of my customers read to his companion. We happened to be sitting in adjoining rooms; and the partition being thin, I could hear every word of it, which appeared to me so extraordinary and instructive, that I took my pen, and wrote as follows.



VISION OF DON RODERICK.

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I WAS last week taking a solitary walk in the Prado, at Madrid; when, according to the nature of men in years, who have made but little progress in the advancement of their fortunes or their fame, I was repining at the sudden rise of many persons much younger than myself, and indeed at the unequal distribution of wealth, honour, and all other blessings of life. I was ruminating on this, when night stole upon me, and drew my mind into a far more agreeable contemplation. The sky above appeared in all its glory; and presented me with such a hemisphere of stars, as made the most agreeable prospect imaginable, to one who delights in the study of Nature. It happened to be a frosty night; and the whole body of air was so purified into bright transparent æther, as made every constellation visible, and at the same time gave such a



particular lustre to the stars, that I thought it the richest sight I had ever witnessed. I could not behold a scene so wonderfully adorned, without suitable meditations on the Author of such illustrious and amazing objects: for on these occasions, Philosophy suggests motives to Religion; and Religion adds pleasure to Philosophy.

As soon as I had recovered my usual temper, and serenity of soul, I retired to my hotel, with the satisfaction of having passed away a few hours in the proper employment of a reasonable creature, and promising myself that my slumbers would be sweet. I no sooner fell into them, but I dreamt a dream, or saw a vision, (for I know not which to call it,) that seemed to arise out of my evening's meditations; and had something in it so solemn and serious, that I cannot forbear communicating it, though, I must confess, the wildness of imagination, common in a dream, discovers itself too much in several parts.

"Of such a night I saw the same azure sky diver-

sified with the same glorious luminaries which had engaged my attention a little before I fell asleep. I was looking very attentively on that sign in the heavens which is called the *Balance*; when, on a sudden, there appeared in it an extraordinary light, as if of the sun rising at midnight. By its increasing in breadth and lustre, I soon found that it approached towards the earth; and at length I could discern something like a shadow hovering in the midst of a great glory, which, in a short time, I discovered to be the figure of a woman. I fancied at first it might have been the Angel, or Intelligence, that guided the constellation from which it descended; but, upon a nearer view, I saw about her all the emblems of the Goddess of Justice. Her countenance was unspeakably awful and majestic, but exquisitely beautiful to those whose eyes were strong enough to behold it: her smiles transported with rapture; her frowns terrified to despair. She held in her hand a mirror, endowed with the same qualities as that which the painters put into the hand of Truth.

There streamed from it a light, which distinguished itself from all the splendor that surrounded her, more than a flash of lightning shines in the midst of daylight. As she moved it in her hand, it brightened the heavens, the air, or the earth. When she had descended so low as to be seen and heard by mortals, to make the pomp of her appearance more supportable, she threw darkness and clouds about her, that tempered the light into a thousand beautiful shades and colours, and multiplied that lustre, which before was too strong and dazzling, into a variety of milder glories.

In the mean time, the world was in an alarm, and all the inhabitants of it gathered together upon a spacious plain; so that I seemed to have the whole species before my eyes. A voice was heard from the clouds, declaring the intention of this visit, which was to restore and appropriate to every one living what was his due. The fear and hope, joy and sorrow, which appeared in this great assembly, after this solemn declaration, is not to be expressed. The first edict was

then pronounced : “ *That all titles and claims to riches and estates, or to any part of them, should be immediately vested in the rightful owner.*” Upon this, the inhabitants of the earth held up the instruments of their tenures, whether in parchment, paper, wax, or any other form of conveyance ; and as the Goddess moved the mirror of Truth, which she held in her hand so that the light which flowed from it fell upon the multitude, they examined the several instruments by the beams of it. The rays of the mirror had a particular quality, of setting fire to all forgery and falsehood. The blaze of papers, the melting of seals, and the crackling of parchments, produced a very odd scene. The fire very often ran through two or three lines only, and then stopped : though I could not but observe that the flames chiefly broke out among the interlineations and codicils. The light of the mirror, as it was turned up and down, pierced into all the dark corners and recesses of the universe, and, by that means, detected many writings and records which had been hidden or buried by time, chance, or design. This

occasioned a wonderful revolution amongst the people. At the first time, the spoils of extortion, fraud, robbery, with all the fruits of bribery and corruption, were thrown together into a prodigious pile that almost reached to the clouds: this was called the *Mount of Restitution*, to which all injured persons were invited, to receive what belonged to them.

Crowds of people were to be seen coming up in tattered garments, and changing clothes with others who were dressed with lace and embroidery. Several of immense fortunes became men of moderate fortune; and, many others, who were overgrown in wealth and possessions, had no more left than what they usually spent. What moved my concern most, was, to see a certain street of the greatest credit in Europe, from one end to the other, become bankrupt.

The next command was, for the whole body of mankind to separate themselves into their proper families; which was no

sooner done, than an edict was issued out, requiring all children “*to repair to their true and natural fathers.*” This put a great part of the assembly in motion; for as the mirror was moved over them, it inspired every one with such a natural instinct, as directed them to their real parents. It was a very melancholy spectacle to see the fathers of very large families become childless, and bachelors undone by a charge of sons and daughters. You might see a presumptuous heir of a great estate ask blessings of his coachman; and a celebrated toast paying her duty to a valet-de-chambre. Many, under vows of celibacy, appeared surrounded with a numerous issue. The charge of parentage would have caused great lamentation, but that the calamity was pretty common; and that, generally, those who lost their children had the satisfaction of seeing them put into the hands of their dearest friends. Men were no sooner settled in their right to their possessions and their progeny, but there was a third order proclaimed, “*That all the posts of dignity and honour in the universe should only be conferred on persons of the greatest merit,*

*abilities, and perfections."* The handsome, the strong, and the wealthy, immediately pressed forward; but not being able to bear the splendor of the mirror which played upon their faces, they immediately fell back upon the crowd: yet as the Goddess tried the multitude by her glass, as the eagle does its young ones by the lustre of the sun, it was remarkable, that every one turned away his face from it who had not distinguished himself either by virtue, knowledge, or capacity in business, either military or civil. This select assembly was drawn up in the centre of a prodigious multitude, which was diffused on all sides, and stood observing them, as idle people gather about a regiment that is exercising. They were drawn up in three bodies. In the first were the men of virtue; in the second the men of knowledge; and in the third the men of business. It was impossible to look at the first column without a secret veneration; their aspects were so sweetened with humanity, raised with contemplation, emboldened with resolution, and adorned with the most heavenly expression, the effect of the practice

of virtue. I could not but take notice, there were many faces among them which were unknown, not only to the multitude, but even to several of their own body.

In the second column, consisting of the Men of Knowledge, there had been great disputes before they fell into their ranks, which they did not do at last without the positive command of the Goddess who presided over the assembly. She had so ordered it, that men of the greatest genius and strongest sense were placed at the head of the column. Behind these were placed such as had formed their minds very much on the thoughts and writings of others. In the rear of the column, were men who had more wit than sense, or more learning than understanding. All living authors of any value were ranged in one of these classes ; but I must confess, I was very much surprised to see a great body of Editors, Critics, Commentators, and Grammarians, meet with so very bad reception. They had formed themselves into a body, and with a great deal of arrogance demanded the first station in the column of Knowledge ;



but the Goddess, instead of complying with their request, clapped them all into liveries, and bade them know themselves for no other than the lackeys of the learned.

The third column were men of business, and consisted of persons in military and civil capacities. The former marched out from the rest, and placed themselves in the front: on which the others shook their heads at them, but did not think fit to dispute the post with them. I could not but make some observations upon this last column of people; yet I have certain private reasons why I do not think fit to communicate them to the public. In order to fill up all the posts of honour, dignity, and profit, a draught was made out of each column, of men who were masters of all the three qualifications in some degree, and who were preferred to stations of the first rank. The second draught was made out of such as were possessed of any two of the qualifications: such were disposed of in stations of the second dignity. Those who were left, and were endowed with only one of

them, had their suitable posts. All were surprised to see so many new faces in the most eminent dignities; and, for my own part, I was very well pleased to see all my friends either keep their present posts, or advanced to higher.

The male world were dismissed by the Goddess of Justice, and disappeared; when, on a sudden, the whole plain was covered with women. So charming a multitude filled my heart with unspeakable pleasure; and, as the celestial light of the mirror shone upon their faces, several of them seemed rather persons that descended in the train of the Goddess, than such as were brought before her for their trial. The clack of tongues, and confusion of voices, in this new assembly, was so very great, that the Goddess was obliged to command silence several times, and with some severity, before she could make them attentive to the edict. They were all sensible that the most important affair amongst womankind was then to be settled, which every one knows to be the point of precedence. This had

raised innumerable disputes amongst them, and put the whole sex in a tumult. Every one produced her claim, and pleaded her pretensions. Birth, beauty, wit, or wealth, were words that rang in my ears from all parts of the plain. Some boasted of the merit of their husbands; others of their own power in governing them. Some pleaded their unspotted virginity; others their numerous issue. Some valued themselves as they were the mothers, and others the daughters, of persons of note. There was not a single accomplishment unmentioned, or unpractised. The whole assemblage was full of singing, dancing, tossing, ogling, speaking, smiling, sighing, fanning, frowning, and all those other irresistible arts which women put in practice to captivate the hearts of reasonable creatures. The Goddess, to end the dispute, caused it to be proclaimed, That every one should take place according as she was more or less beautiful.

This declaration gave great satisfaction to the whole assembly, which immediately

bridled up, and appeared in all its beauties. Such as believed themselves graceful in their motions, found an occasion of falling back, advancing forward, or making a false step, that they might shew their persons in the most becoming attitudes. Such as had fine necks, were wonderfully curious to look over the heads of the multitude. Several clapt their hands on their foreheads, as helping their sight to look on the glories that surrounded the Goddess, but, in reality, to shew fine hands and arms. The ladies were yet better pleased when they heard, that, in the decision of this great controversy, each of them should be her own judge, and take her place according to her own opinion of herself, when she looked in the glass.

The Goddess then let down the Mirror of Truth, in a golden chain, which appeared larger in proportion as it descended and approached nearer to the eyes of the beholders. It was the particular property of this looking-glass to banish all false appearances, and shew people what they really

and. The whole woman was represented, without regard to the usual external features, which were made conformable to their real characters. In short, the most accomplished (taking the whole circle of female perfections) were the most beautiful; and the most defective the most deformed. The Goddess so varied the motion of the glass, and placed it in so many different lights, that each had an opportunity of seeing herself in it.

It is impossible to describe the rage, the pleasure, or astonishment, that appeared in each face, upon its representation in the mirror: multitudes started at their own form, and would have broken the glass, if they could have reached it. Many saw their blooming features wither as they looked upon them, and their self-admiration was turned into loathing and abhorrence. The lady who was thought so agreeable in her anger, and was so often celebrated for a woman of fire and spirit, was frightened at her own image, and fancied she saw a Fury in the glass: the interested mistress

beheld a Harpy, and subtle jilt a Sphynx. I was very much troubled in my own heart to see such a destruction of fine faces; but at the same time, I had the pleasure of seeing several improved, which I had before looked upon as the greatest master-pieces of Nature. I observed some few were so humble as to be surprised at their own charms; and that many a one, who had lived in the retirement and severity of a Vestal, shone forth in all the graces and attractions of a Syren. I was ravished at the sight of a particular image in the mirror, which I thought the most beautiful object that my eyes had ever beheld: there was something more than human in her countenance: her eyes were so full of light, that they seemed to beautify every thing they looked upon: her face was enlivened with such a florid bloom, as did not so properly seem the mark of health, as of immortality: her shape, her stature, and her whole mien, were such as distinguished her even there, where the whole fair sex were assembled.

I was impatient to see the lady represented by so divine an image; and I found her to be the person that stood at my right hand, and in the same point of view with myself. This was a little old woman, who, in her prime, had been about five feet high, though at present shrunk to about three quarters of that measure: her natural aspect was puckered up with wrinkles, and her head covered with grey hairs. I had observed, all along, an innocent cheerfulness in her face, which was now heightened into rapture, as she beheld herself in the glass. It was an odd circumstance, which I cannot forbear relating,—I conceived so great an inclination towards her, that I had thoughts of discoursing to her on the point of marriage; when, on a sudden, she was carried from me: for the word was now given, That all who were pleased with their own images, should separate, and place themselves at the head of their sex.

This detachment was afterwards divided into three bodies, consisting of Maids, Wives, and Widows; the wives being placed

in the middle, with the maids on the right, and the widows on the left : though it was with difficulty that these two last bodies were hindered from falling into the centre. This separation of those who liked their real selves, not having lessened the number of the main body so considerably as it might have been wished, the Goddess, after having drawn up her mirror, thought fit to make new distinctions amongst those who did not like the figures which they saw in it. She made several wholesome edicts ; one to warn the sex, that it is their *own* faults they are to answer for, *not* their neighbours—to guard their *own* conduct, and keep a *rigid* watch on that ; and to leave their neighbours to God and their conscience. Two others, which she gave out with a stern voice, were executed with great severity. Her design was to make an example of two extremes in the Female World ; of those who are *very severe* on the *conduct* of *others* ; and of those who are very regardless of *their own*. The first sentence, therefore, which the Goddess pronounced was, That all females addicted to *censoriousness*



and *detraction* should lose the use of speech; a punishment which would be most *grievous* to the offender; and, what should be the end of all punishments, effectual for rooting out the crime. Upon this edict, which was as soon executed as published, the noise of this assembly very considerably abated. It was a melancholy spectacle to see so many, who had the reputation of rigid virtue, struck dumb. A lady who stood by me, and saw my concern, told me she wondered how I could be concerned for such a pack of ———. I found, by the shaking of her head, she was going to give me their characters; but by her saying no more, I perceived she had lost the command of her tongue. This calamity fell very heavy upon that part of women who are distinguished by the name of Prudes, a courtly word for *female hypocrites*, who have a *short* way of being virtuous, by shewing that others are vicious. Those who *invent lies* to defame, had, in addition to the loss of speech, their faces changed to black. It is needless to add, the black faces were *almost* confined to the

Old Maids. The second sentence was then pronounced against the loose part of the sex, That all should immediately be pregnant, who, in any part of their life, had ran the hazard of it. This produced a very goodly appearance; and revealed so many misconducts, that made those who were lately struck dumb repine more than ever at their want of utterance; though, at the same time, (as afflictions seldom come single) many of the Mutes were also seized with this new calamity. The ladies were now in such a condition, that they would have wanted room, had not the plain been large enough to let them divide their ground, and their lines, on all sides. It was a sensible affliction to me, to see such a multitude of Fair Ones either dumb or big-bellied. But I was something more at ease, when I found that they agreed upon several regulations, to cover such misfortunes. Amongst others, it was to be an established maxim in all nations, that a woman's first child might come into the world within six months. after the acquaintance with her husband,

and that grief might retard the birth of her last, till fourteen months after his decease.

This vision lasted till my usual hour of waking, which I did with some surprise, to find myself alone, after having been engaged the whole night in so prodigious a multitude. If virtue in men is more venerable, it is in women more lovely. Let her always keep engraven on her mind, that charity in words and deeds, a tear for an erring sister's shame, and a mild deportment to all around her, are the brightest jewels she can wear.

And now, having finished the recital of the vision, I have only to make my bow, and retire. Behold me, now, thanks to Heaven! become master of an hotel: and I perceive it will be my last change, I am so satisfied with my condition. What can I wish for more? I have every thing in abundance, and I lead an independent life. "That is not true," says some captious reader: "Is it to live in independence, to serve the public? Is it not rather to be

footman to all the world?" Yes, strictly speaking: but there is a great difference in a man devoted to the service of the public, and a man who serves an individual;—the first pays his civilities to his customers for their money; the second cringes like a scoundrel before his master—the one serves without being a slave; and the other is a slave while he serves.

THE END.







